Forgive me, sister, for I have sinned FEATURES, P8



Whelan sacrificed as Blair tries to heal government divisions

GORDON BROWN sacrificed his By ANDREW GRICE controversial press secretary yesterday as Tony Blair sought to stabilise his Government after two weeks of turmoil sparked by the Peter Mandel-

Charlie Whelan, one of the Chancellor's closest aides, announced he is to leave his job as the Treasury's press secretary despite strongly denying that he leaked details of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general.

Downing Street denied that Mr Whelan had been forced out.

Marie Way

-

- Lord Falconer to take over the Dome page 2
- Whelan's many enemies page 3
- What now for Brown? page 3 Leading article

Review, page 3

But Mr Brown and Mr Blair are understood to have discussed his future by telephone last week during the Prime Minister's holiday in the Seychelles.

It is believed they agreed that to enable the Government to draw a line under the Mandelson affair and prevent further damaging speculation about tension between the Prime Minister and his Chancellor

Government insiders suggested Mr Whelan decided to jump before he was pushed. As The Independent revealed on Political Editor

Saturday, several cabinet ministers were calling for his head, with some threatening to raise the issue in Cabinet next week.

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, is believed to have told the Prime Minister he would no longer work with Mr Whelan after Mr Mandelson's sudden departure just before Christmas

Mr Whelan said that the level of media speculation about his role in the affair was making it impossible to carry out his job effectively. "I do take the view that the job of press secretary becomes extremely difficult if the press secretary, and not the department he serves, becomes the story and the subject of excessive attention," he said.

"It is absurd that, on the day the euro starts trading in the week the Monetary Policy Committee is meeting and when the Chancellor is working on a number of important initiatives for the new year, that there is such attention focused on me."

Mr Whelan said he would stand down as soon as he found another job, which is expected to be in the private sector.

The Tories said he was a "lame duck" and should stand down immediately, but called on him to serve a period of "quarantine" before taking a private Mr Whelan would have to quit sector job because he knows the secrets of Mr Brown's March Budget.

> Although Downing Street insisted there was no evidence that Mr Whelan leaked details of Mr Mandelson's loan, and paid tribute to his work, it revealed that Mr Campbell would have to approve his successor



Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary, arriving at the Treasury yesterday

will allow the Government to "get back to the basics" of con-

centrating on policy. Now is the time to draw a line under recent events," said David Blunkett, the Secretary ployment. The key political issue is not the obsession with

united determination to keep

electorate." chelles, tried to bring to an end last night the most unhappy peof State for Education and Em- riod since he won power by completing the ministerial reshuffle caused by the resig-

Cabinet ministers hope that so-called spin-doctors and nations of Mr Mandelson and post of junior minister at the De-Mr Whelan's announcement camps but the Government's Mr Robinson. The Prime Minpartment of Trade and Industry. ister underlined his desire to ce-The changes were seen at Westthe promises we made to the ment his close relationship with minster as a sign that Mr Blair his Chancellor by allowing him wants his axis with Mr Brown Mr Blair, still in the Sey- to promote Dawn Primarolo, a to be the Government's pivotal junior Treasury minister, to

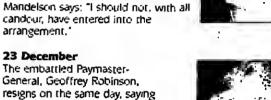
Paymaster-General. Michael Wills, a close ally of Mr Brown on the Labour back

TWO WEEKS OF TURMOIL

23 December

23 December

Peter Mandelson resigns as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry after it is revealed that he accepted a £373,000 loan from the Paymaster. General, Geoffrey Robinson, to buy a £475,000 house in Notting Hill, west London. In his resignation letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Mandelson says: "I should not, with all candour, have entered into the arrangement,*



in his resignation letter that after 12 months of "a highly

The embattled Paymaster-

General, Geoffrey Robinson,

charged political campaign against him he had reached the point where it was right for him to go. 29 December



The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, seeks to inject Old Labour values into the New Labour project when he tells "The Independent" that the Government was "a massive deliverer, particularly when we have decided that public expenditure is there to uphold the economy in the traditional Kernesian way".



at reasserting traditional Labour values since Mr Mandelson's resignation.

Tories' chief Treasury spokesman, said: "The real problem is not one out-of-control spin-The developments follow Mr doctor but ministers who are so Brown's decision to form an alobsessed with their own fiefliance with John Prescott, the doms and doing down their colbenches, was promoted to the Deputy Prime Minister, aimed leagues that the business of

government - and the interests of Britain—are suffering." As speculation grew about Mr

David Heathcoat Amory, the Whelan's successor, one frontrunner was Kevin Maguire, political editor of The Mirror and the journalist who is closest to Mr Whelan and the Chancellor. Another is David-John Collins. press secretary to Ken Jackson. leader of the AEEU union

Sterling falls as world markets welcome euro

expectations last night of British entry to the European single currency after financial markets around the world rushed to embrace the euro on the first day of trading.

The euro rose sharply against the dollar and share prices on European stock markets registered big gains after a shaky start. London was virtually shunned by investors in what threatens to be a foretaste of life on the fringes of Europe's \$10trn capital market - the largest in the world.

A runaway success for the

COLIN BROWN AND STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

euro would make the momenturn for Britain's entry unstoppable, and Mr Blair yesterday reinforced the impression that it was a case of "when" not "if" Britain would join.

Both the Prime Minister and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, stressed that Britain's economy was at a different point in the cycle to the euro-countries. led by France and Germany.

rates to 3 per cent, but there were no constitutional obstacles

Britain's national economic interest to do so at this stage," Mr Blair said in The Wall Street Journal. "But our position is clear ... If the euro works and the economic benefits are clear and unambiguous, we would recommend entry."

He pledged that London would "be at the centre of the euro even though Britain is not part of the first wave".

which have lowered interest showed that the euro had passed its first important test On the foreign exchange markets, the euro rose nearly "It would not have been in three-quarters of 1 per cent against the dollar Sterling by

> contrast had a poor day. "Economic and monetary union (EMU) turns other western European economies from

medium-sized players among equals into small entities on the fringe of a giant," said Holger Schmieding, an economist at Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street investment bank, "If need be, these outsiders will have to Trading on the first day adjust to EMU, not vice versa."

Nick Parsons, City economist at Paribas, a leading risks being marginalised, at a time when the UK economy is moving into recession.

year as more and more people switch out of the dollar." Europe's political leaders hailed the first day of trading in the euro as a big success, with claims that the new currency will be strong enough to allow the Continent to escape "economic domination" by the

The French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, French bank, warned: "Sterling led the chorus of approval, forecasting that the euro would become as important as the dollar. In a radio interview in "We think the euro will be the France, Mr Strauss-Kahn best performing currency this

relationship.

argued that Europe's 11nation economic bloc will operate on equal status to the US, ensuring that it "will no longer be subjected to economic domination". The minister added: The euro is an instrument at the service of policy. It will restore to us a power that we had largely lost.

Euro notes will not start cir-

launch of the euro will increase the pressure for an early referendum on Britain's entry. which is not due until after the next general election.

Dealers in the City said the huge task of converting millions of bank deposits and trillions of dollars of assets from the old European currencies to euros had gone smoothly, enabling trading to start on time yesterday without a hitch. Winners and losers, Page 8

Interest rates fear, Page 12 Hamish McRae, Review, Page 5



INSIDE THIS SECTION

Theatre call Stars raily to back Lady Delfont over the renaming of the Prince of Wales theatre Home P5

Child refused entry to UK A girl is being blocked from visiting her father in prison Home P6

Man held over attack A man was being held last night after the kidnap of a mother and daughter Home P7

Clinton's speech doubts Senators seek to delay the State of the Union address Foreign P10

Massacre in Pakistan At least 17 worshippers were killed in a Shia mosque when three gummen opened fire Foreign P10

White House ambition Elizabeth Dole, wife of Bob Dole, may bid for presidency Foreign P11

Double trouble for ICI ICI has shed 500 jobs in the UK, and US regulators have blocked its £600m Tioxide sale **Business P13**

FA chairman steps down Keith Wiseman resigns over. cash-for-votes scandal Sport P24

Hamish McRae Beware Euro-phoria, as well as Euro-phobia Comment P5

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David Aaronovitch Why the Blairs' school holiday arrangements are fine by me Comment P3

United States.

The Lord of Lingo John Hegley should be the next Poet Laureate - but probably won't be Arts P9

Exercise for January Get fit with Alexander Technique swimming Health P11

The power to persuade Who are the six most influential journalists in the country? Media P13

Our hacks in the north How the Assembly will change Scottish newspapers Media P14

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Blair's old flatmate to take charge of Dome

appointed one of his closest friends to be in charge of the £758m Millennium Dome. prompting fresh allegations of promotion for "Tony's cronies".

Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Minister of State at the Office. Lord Falconer has Cabinet Office, succeeds Peter Mandelson as the Government's sole shareholder for Cahinet sub-committees. By the project in Greenwich.

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, will continue to answer a long-term role because of a Mandelson," said one minister. possible conflict of interests. He is also chairman of the Millennium Commission, which gives lottery money to the Dome.

But there were fresh Conservative accusations of "cronyism" over the appointment of spokesman on culture, con-Lord Falconer, 47, who once shared a flat with Mr Blair in "yet another example of the the 1970s, when both were young barristers in London.

Charlie Falconer gave up a legal practice worth a reputed £500,000 a year to take up a life NICHOLAS SCHOON

peerage and become Solicitor-General in the new Labour Government in May 1997, before moving to the Cabinet emerged as the "eyes and ears" of the Prime Minister on 14 handing him responsibility for the Dome Mr Blair is underlining the trust he has in his judgement. "He relies on Charquestions on the Dome in the lie quite a lot. He seems to rely Commons. He was barred from on him like he relied on Peter

> But John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, said: "This is another example of promotion for Tony's cronies.

Peter Ainsworth, the Tory demned the appointment as cronyism that pervades this Government". He added: "In what way is Lord Falconer qualified to take on the task, other than the fact that he is a



Lord Falconer, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, will be a behind-the-scenes fixer ironing out problems on the Dome

close friend of Tony Blair?" Taking charge of the Dome could prove a poisoned chalice, however, Mr Redwood said Lord Falconer could take the hlame if it proved a failure while Mr Blair would take the

credit if it succeeded. Whitehall sources said yesterday that the Dome no longer needs a high-profile figure in the Cabinet to promote it. Now that its contents have largely been de-

cided, what is needed is a highly trusted, behind-the-scenes

fixer to iron out problems. the New Millennium Experiproject, due to open on New Year's Eve. He is also in charge of appointments to the board, their pay, and that of the staff. such as British Airways.

Meanwhile, the Tories will demand a statement next week from Stephen Byers, the new Yesterday Lord Falconer de- Trade and Industry Secretary, clined to be interviewed. As on reports that his predecessor, shareholder, he has to ensure Mr Mandelson, overruled civil servants who warned that he ence Company meets the Gov- would have had a conflict of inernment's objectives for the terests by remaining in charge of the Dome while also taking important decisions on some of the Dome's financial backers.



Lord Falconer is a trusted colleague of Tony Blair's but some Tories view his

Noon today

FORECAST

Midlands, SW England, Wates, E Angila, E England: Morning cloud, rain and hill fog will slowly clear away to leave it mild. A moderate to fresh south to south-westerly reind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Channel Is: After a cloudy start, it will become brighter to allow sunny spells. A fresh southerly wind. Max temp 12-13C (54-55F) Cent N, NW & NE England, Lake District & lake of Mam There will be out-breaks of rain, some of which will be heavy. Becoming drier towards the evening A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

N Ireland: After a cold start cloud will begin to build from the south to bring some rain for the afternoon. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-BC (43-46F).

NW & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N & W Isles: Cold with sunny spells and Iso lated showers, some wintry. A light west to north-west wind. Max temp 3-7C (37-45F).

OUTLOOK

Continuing mild in the south, although early suriny spells will become confined to the south-east as rain spreads from the north-west. Scotland and Northern Ire-land will see rain clearing to showers. Oulte windy again with further rain on Thursday.

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Cambridgeshire A10 between Foxton and

Manchester-bound, due to Me struction work. Until 28th Februa enuction work, Until 28th February.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A8109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178), Shelfield, Certispaway reduced to 2 ares southbound, Until 21st November 2003.
Durntries and Gallowery. A74 Boatrook, and J16 Armandale. Major vous-works, until 31st January.

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LIGHTING UP 4,13pm 4,08pm 4,16pm 3,59pm 4,05pm 4,05pm 3,53pm Coldest (day): Aviernore SC (41F) Westers: Tulloch Bridge 1.10 ins HIGH TIDES 4.9 0.04 4.4 0.03 0.9 0.06 0.20 0.07 0.08 0.07 AIR QUALITY SO2 Good Good Good Good Good Good NO₂ Moder Good Good Good Good Good Good 0.08 0 0 06 2.6 0.30 2.5 0.54 5.0 0.79 SUN & MOON

THE WORLD YESTERDAY 3.6 0.25 11 52

OR SHINE...

WEATHERLINE

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Sunday: Information by PA VientherCentry COME RAIN

HEAVY FLOODING from monsoon rains in Malaysia kept more than 11,000 students out of classes yesterday as La Niña, a cold-weather system related to the El Niño phenomenon, tightened its grip on the country.

The forced closures meant an extended holiday break for students and teachers of some 43 schools, mostly near the worst-hit town of Pekan, in Pahang state, 450km (280 miles) east of Kuala Lumpur.



low C will drift east and deepen. Low B will move north-east and fill slowly. High B will begin building to the north-east.

Primarolo is named as new **Paymaster**

GORDON BROWN compensat- By COLIN BROWN lan at the Treasury last night ith one of his junior ministers. Dawn Primarolo, being promoted to replace Geoffrey Robinson who quit as Paymaster-General in the furore over his £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson.

Tony Blair had wanted to appoint Geoff Hoon, a more Blairite minister to replace Mr Robinson, but Mr Brown and senior colleagues were opposed to the move amid reports that the Chancellor was reeisting having Mr Blair's "spies" put into the Treasury.

Downing Street denied that Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, bad blocked the promotion of Mr Hoon, his minister in the Commons, because he is needed to deliver some forthcoming legislation.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said there was a delay in replacing Mr Robinson because the Prime Minister was on holiday in the Seychelles. Ms Primarolo, 44, once nicknamed "Red Dawn", was an active member of the leftwing Campaign Group of Labour MPs under Tony Benn until her promotion to the front bench, and is now a trusted member of Mr Brown's team.

Michael Wills, another ally of Mr Brown, was also promoted to the Government as a junior Department of Trade and Industry minister. Mr Wills was appointed by Mr Brown only a month ago to chair an important cross-party group on preparation for the single currency.

A strong supporter of the

ed for the loss of Charlie Whe- Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Wills accepted the post from Tony Blair by telephone but he was told he will be an unpaid minister. "We didn't reverse the charges," said Mr Blair's spokesman.

Mr Blair was forced to juggle with an unpaid portfolio because Mr Robinson took no salary and the Government had reached the limit of 110 paid ministers allowed under Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Mr Wills was a policy adviser to the Chancellor on tackling the so-called "fat cats" in the privatised utilities and re-

ducing VAT on fuel. He is a former broadcasting chief - who was once Peter Mandelson's boss at LWT and entered Parliament after the 1997 general election as MP for Swindon North. There were claims in the constituency that as a strong supporter of New Labour he was parachuted into the seat by the Labour leadership ahead of a local union

Mr Wills replaces Barbara Roche, who is being moved from the DTI to the Treasury, to take up the vacancy left by Ms Primarolo.

Stephen Timms was moved up a rung at the Department of Social Security to replace John Denham, moved in last week's reshuffle to become Minister of Health. Mr Timms's place will be taken by Hugh Bayley, the parliamentary aide to Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health.

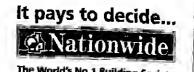
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eplaces Burnard is being moved to the Treas. (% · vacancy lett by mms was proved te Department d у то терізсе ді діл

eo in last weeks secome Minister · Tunns's Plant by Hugh Bayes entary aids in u the Secretary di

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Ministers unite in delight at the downfall of a very uncivil servant

Political Editor

CHARLIE WHELAN once begged Roger Lyons, leader of the MSF white-collar union, to lend him his mobile telephone during a union conference in Llandudno.

Mr Lyons obliged, but was horrified when he read the diary column of The Times the next day, which told the embarrassing story of how he, a union boss supposedly fighting to save British jobs, had a foreign-made phone. "I needed the fifty quid," Mr Whelan told him.

For the press officer of one union to treat the leader of another in such a manner was bad enough; but his enemies say Mr Whelan never really changed his rumbustious style when he moved into the world of politics.

Before and after the 1997 general election, he made a string of enemies among senior Labour politicians, which left him with very few friends when he needed them after last month's sudden resignation from the Cabinet of Peter Mandelson, his biggest foe of all.

Mr Whelan knew he would be prime suspect when details emerged of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general. He denies passing the information to Paul Routledge, a close friend, who included it in his unauthorised hiography of Mr Mandelson to be published this month.

Whatever the truth, it suited Mr Whelan's many ministerial critics to believe he played a part in the leak, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Rohin Cook, Foreign Secretary, never forgave Mr Whelan for apparently "cooking up" with a journalist plans to privatise the Tote, It was Mr Straw's area of responsibility and Mr Cook is a borse racing fanatic; neither man knew anything about the

Mr Cook also believes be fell victim to Mr Whelan's spin that be was "soft" on spending, as the Chancellor's man highlighted the lavish residences enjoyed by Britain's ambassadors abroad. David Blunkett, Sec-Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, and George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, also suspect they were on the receiving end of Mr Whelan's spinning during last year's spending review.

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was furious to hear reports that Mr Whelan encouraged journalists not to give much coverage to the Chancellor's trip to Ulster last year. He apparently urged them to focus on the problems facing Mr Cook - an old enemy of Mr Brown - after he sacked his diary secretary

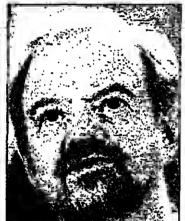
at the Foreign Office. Jack Cunningham had been furious at Treasury briefings against him while he was Agriculture Minister and, in his new job as the Cabinet's enforcer, was in a position to demand revenge.

Chris Smith's hostility to Mr Whelan dates back to his days as opposition social security spokesman, when he woke up to hear Radio 4 announce a policy change about child benefit

of which he was unaware. Mr Mandelson was convinced the leak of his loan from Mr Robinson was the culmination of a five-year guerrilla war



SIX CABINET MEMBERS WHO FELT THE LASH OF WHELAN'S TONGUE



ROBIN COOK An "auld enemy" of Mr Brown, the Foreign Secretary believes he fell to spin that he was "soft" on spending, as the Chancellor's man highlighted the lavish residences enjoyed by Britain's ambassadors abroad.



JACK CUNNINGHAM Furious about Treasury briefings against him while he was Minister of Agriculture. In his 'enforcer', he was In a position to demand revenge.



PETER MANDELSON He was convinced that the leak of his £373,000 home loan from the former paymaster-general. culmination of a five-year guerrilla war conducted against him by Mr Whelan.



MO MOWLAM The Northern Ireland Secretary was angered that journalists were encouraged to play down last year and to concentrate on problems facing Robin Cook - an old enemy of Mr Brown.



CHRIS SMITH Hostility to Mr Whelan dates back to Mr Smith's days as opposition social security hear Radio 4 announce a policy change about child benefit of which he was unaware.



JACK STRAW With Robin Cook, he blamed Mr Whelan for "cooking up" with a journalist plans to privatise the Mr Straw's area of responsibility and Mr Cook is a horse racing fan; neither knew anything of the plan.

lieves, his enemy overplayed his

A friend of Mr Mandelson said yesterday: "They aimed to badly wound him, not to kill him off. But at least his resignation may not now be in vain. The fact that Charlie is going too gives the Government a chance to lance the boil."

Even ministers who bave defended Mr Whelan since Mr Mandelson's departure had their private grudges. Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, was furious at the Treasury's spinning against her when she was drawing up policy on the minimum wage and trade union recognition.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, has mended his fences with Mr Brown but allies say he has not forgiven Mr Whelan for rubbishing his fight, when in opposition, against Mr Brown's plans to set up a

"super Treasury". Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, paid a warm tribute to Mr Whelan yes-

this time, Mr Mandelson be- key role in opposition and government and predicting he

would find a good new job. However, Whitehall insiders insist that behind the scenes, Mr Campbell, who is Mr Blair's closest aide, had persuaded the Prime Minister that Mr Whelan had to go. "Alastair made it perfectly clear he would not work with Charlie, as did other senior people in Num-

ber 10," said one source. Mr Whelan knew he had little credit in the bank with Downing Street or the cabinet ministers whose feathers be had ruffled over the years. He told friends yesterday: "I often got the blame for hriefing against people when I was totally innocent. It was because I played hard; politics is a rough

Allies insisted he had been thinking since last autumn that Treasury job.

it was time to move on after five vears in the "24-hours-a-day" Mr Whelan insisted he had not been forced out, but had de-

papers, his break had been constantly interrupted by speculation about his future, and he realised he had committed the cardinal sin of the spin-doctor. "I had become the story," he

told friends yesterday. Although aides of the Chancellor insist that Mr Whelan's departure was not enforced by Mr Blair, Mr Brown was in regular contact with the Prime Minister last week during his family holiday in the Seychelles. when they are bound to have

discussed Mr Whelan's position. Mr Blair is believed to have tried to persuade Mr Brown to dispense with Mr Whelan's services on at least two occasions - the first was immediately after the 1997 general election.

Six months later Mr Blair was furious when Mr Whelan's over-enthusiastic briefings about government policy on the single currency caused problems for sterling. He was not been forced out, but had de-cided to quit on Sunday on the rats briefing journalists on his against him by Mr Whelan. But terday, saying be had played a train journey back from a walk-mobile phone from the Red

ing holiday in Scotland. Al-though he tried to avoid news-opposite the Treasury

Mr Blair hit the roof again a year ago when Mr Whelan helped Mr Routledge lo write an authorised biography of the Chancellor, which revealed his continuing hitterness at not becoming Labour leader when Mr Blair succeeded the late John Smith in 1994.

On these occasions, Mr Brown stuck levally to his spindoctor. But the shockwaves caused by the resignation of Mr Mandelson before Christmas whether or not Mr Whelan was involved - appear to have changed the Chancellor's mind.

While Mr Brown professed publicly that he was "relaxed" over the speculation, in private he showed his first doubts about his loyal aide. "We just can't have another week like that," he told Mr Whelan after the media feeding frenzy that followed Mr Mandelson's

resignation. "Gordon had always seen Charlie as a huge asset. For the first time, he realised that he might be a liability, and that he

was damaging the Government and Gordon himself," said a Treasury source.

Mr Whelan, a 44-year-old foolball fanatic and season licket-holder at Spurs, was educated at a minor public school, Ottershaw, but reports that he adopted his Cockney accent are wide of the mark. After a brief and unhappy spell as a

City trader, the former Communist became press officer for the AEEU engineering union, working for Jimmy Airlie, a left-wing official and his hero and political mentor. Ironically, Mr Mandelson was heavily involved in Mr Whelan's move to Mr Brown's staff in 1994, just before John Smith's death fractured their relationship.

As he successfully remodelled Mr Brown's image, Mr Whelan's relations with Westminster journalists had plenty of ups and downs. He was seen as a valuable source, and great fun, especially after a few spritzers. But some journalists complained that he was unreliable, pointing to pre-Budget steers that deliberately misled - for example, that the middlewhich he was filmed hectoring classes would be squeezed - so that the actual event got headlines such as "Brown spares middle classes."

Such tricks worked, but Mr Whelan made more enemies. His reputation was not enhanced by a documentary in

journalists over the phone. After one conversation, he turned to the camera and quipped: "You have to be economical with the truth sometimes," adding with a smile: "You should never lie, but it's very difficult."



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HELPING YOU FIGHT OFF COLDS.

Brown's ever-decreasing inner circle as the non-executive chairman, Mr Blair became Labour leader lan no longer on the scene, min-THE DEPARTURE of Charlie BY ANDREW GRICE

Whelan removes another key player from the inner circle of continued presence might have Gordon Brown, whose powerbase has been progressively Prime Minister to breaking weakened by Tony Blair.

The Chancellor has now seen three of his closest allies tated that "Mr Brown's allies" moved from their jobs. Against his wishes, Mr Blair moved Nick Brown from the pivotal job of Chief Whip to Minister of Agriculture last July.

Last month, Geoffrey Robinson - the Treasury minister closest to Mr Brown and regarded by the Chancellor as his "wise uncle" - was forced to resign after a series of allegations over his business career before

he became Paymaster-General. Now Mr Brown is to part company with the press secretary who has assiduously - and sometimes over-zealously - reshaped and built up his image

for the past five years. Mr Brown may bave finally judged that his spin-doctor's

stretched relations with the

Mr Blair was justifiably irri-- presumed to be Mr Whelan described the Chancellor as

a kind of smiling front man.

A member of the Blair camp said yesterday. There can only ever be one Prime Minister. Gordon has got to learn that."

Now ministers hope Mr Whelan's departure will enable Mr Blair and Mr Brown to draw a line under their past difthe managing director who ran ferences, which stem from Mr people a bloody nose," said a the Government and Mr Blair Brown's disappointment that

after John Smith died in 1994. They also believe it will be easier for Mr Brown to achieve a gression was due to the spinlong-promised reconciliation with Mr Mandelson, wborn he has not forgiven for backing Mr Blair in 1994. "Gordon makes enemies; he

isters say they will find out how much of the Brown camp's agdoctor's style and bow much be was merely acting on his master's orders. Mr Blair's allies want Mr

Brown to cement his relationalways seems to want to give ship with the Prime Minister rather than build on his alcabinet minister. With Mr Wheliance with John Prescott, after

has much more in common with Tony than Prescott," said one insider Friends insist Mr Brown will prove a loyal and dependable Chancellor, and can become one of the most successful this

> Mr Blair and Mr Brown are well aware of the dangers to both of them: Baroness Thatcher's allies believe she never recovered from the resignation of Nigel Lawson as Chancellor after a series of battles between

she was forced out So Mr Blair and Mr Brown have every incentive to draw a line under the destabilising events of recent weeks. "Their relationship is either the rock on which the Government is built. or the rock into which the whole enterprise is shipwrecked," said an ally of Mr Brown.

No 10 and No 11. A year later,

WHELAN'S STATEMENT OF RESIGNATION

Having returned from holiday and looked carefully at the press coverage of the last 10 days, I want to make It absolutely clear that I was not responsible for disclosing any Information about Peter Mandelson's mortgage and I refute any

suggestion that I was.

"I do, however, take the view that the job of press secretary becomes extremely difficult if the press secretary, and not the department he serves. becomes the story and the subject of excessive attention.

"It is absurd that, on the day the euro starts

trading, in the week the Monetary Policy Committee is meeting and when the Chancellor is working on a number of important initiatives for the new year, that there is such attention focused on

"Therefore, as soon as an appropriate

opportunity becomes available, I will move but, in the meantime, I will continue to do my job at the Treasury to the best of my ability, promoting the New Labour policies on which Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have worked so closely for so

Police suspended over death in custody

THE SISTER of an apparently healthy man who died within 15 minutes of being dragged into a police station is calling for

criminal charges to be brought. The Crown Prosecution Service is examining a file on the case of Christopher Alder, 37, a found dead on the floor of a police station in Hull last year. He had been left there by officers who thought he was asleep.

A report by a Home Office pathologist, Dr John Chalmer Clark, concluded that the failure to recognise Mr Alder was unconscious was potentially

"an important factor" in his death. Had he received medical attention, he might have survived, Dr Clark said.

Five police officers who were on duty that night have been former paratrooper who was suspended, and the Police Complaints Authority has passed the results of its investigation to the CPS.

Mr Alder's sister, Janet, believes he was not looked after properly because he was black. She wants to know why he was unconscious when he arrived at the police station.

Mr Alder, who had no known health problems, was arrested after a brawl outside a nightclub in Hull on 1 April. He was taken to hospital with superficial injuries, treated and discharged, then put into the back of a police van, to which he walked

According to the version of covered he was dying. Efforts events outlined in Dr Clark's report, Mr Alder did not respood when police opened the doors of the van. They thought he was asleep, so they took hold of both his arms and lifted him out. Officers then dragged him into the station and along to the charge

computer programmer, was placed face down on the floor, his arms handcuffed behind his back. Three minutes later, police removed his handcuffs. After another 10 minutes they checked him again and dis-

to resuscitate him failed. Dr Clark, who conducted a post-mortem examination con- an animal," she said. "The cludes: "The fact that his unconscious state was not recognised as he lay motioniess on the floor for at least 10 minutes, and that he was not given

his airway clear and transfer to pendent pathologist's report. hospital, could have been an important factor in his death. "Had he received immediate

tainly a possibility that his death could have been prevented." Ms Alder said she was horrified when she read the report. "They treated Christopher like

pital?" She wants an inquest to

attention, then there is cervideo evidence shows he was unconscious when he was dragged into the station ... Why didn't they take him back to hos-

room. Mr Alder, who has two appropriate treatment straight be held as soon as possible, and children and was training as a away, ie basic first aid to keep is seeking funds for an inde-

The cause of Mr Alder's death was probably "multifactorial", according to Dr Clark, a combination of drinking four pints of lager, possibly missing a heartbeat due to agitation, slight asphyxia, and being placed in a dark van on his own Dr Clark wrote: "Most difficult, and most crucial to understand, is what happened to him in the police van between leaving the hospital and arriving at the police station. Either he became acutely unwell there, going

something else happened."

Ms Alder said: "Christopher had been discharged from hospital, so clearly there were no concerns about his health. The Home Office report says there was nothing wrong with his heart or his brain. I want to know the cause of death and I want the people responsible to be brought to justice."

Humberside Police declined to comment on the case. A Police Pederation representative said none of the suspended officers had been charged.



Christopher Alder: Left uncouscious on the floor

Gales leave thousands powerless

AS GALES continued to tear By STEPHEN GOODWIN across Britain yesterday, one man died and thousands were left without electricity only days after their power had been restored following the Boxing

The 74-year-old man, who has not been named, was blown into the River Almood at Cramond, Edinburgh, as winds gusted at up to 94mph in Scotland. The ferocity of the storm came close to matching the 104mph of 26 December, the worst blast across south-west Scotland for 30 years.

In Ireland, rescue workers were continuing to search along the west Cork coastline for a German couple who disappeared oo New Year's Eve during severe weather. Police fear they may have been swept

into the sea while out walking.

A police spokesman said that hopes of finding the 33year-old man and his 21-yearold companion alive were fading but added that the search was likely to continue for a few more days.

In Britain, two people have already died in the bitter across cables. weather and dozens of sailors had to be rescued at the weekend because of high winds.

Forecasters said high winds ould die down and be fol-

Scotland Correspondent AND KATE WATSON-SMYTH

lowed by heavy rain in many parts of the country. The Environment Agency warned that rivers in the Midlands were particularly at risk, with belts of heavy rain sweeping in from the south. The Met Office predicted more than two inches of rain for some areas in prolonged showers that will swell rivers to breaking point and flood roads.

Amber flood warnings were issued for the River Severn at Gloucester, the River Learn in Warwickshire and the Avon near

There were less serious yellow alerts on rivers in East Anglia, the Midlands, the South and South-west and on the River Dyfi and the Wye in Wales.

ScottishPower estimated about 18,000 customers were without electricity, including many who were cut off for days after Boxing Day Lockerbie, in Dumfries and Galloway, suffered as 20 oak trees crashed

A spokeswoman for Scottish-Power praised the work of overhead linesmen, some of whom travelled from companies south



Lorries at the mercy of strong winds on the high loop of the M73 yesterday, when police were forced to shut the M73 and the M8 outside Glasgow

and had not seen their families for more than a week

In Northern Ireland, about 1,000 who had been giveo tem-

week's storms had their power turned off again for repairs. A spokeswoman for Northern

1.000 people were thought to be Ireland Electricity said: "As fast without power, and a further as we get more people back on we have others going off again

police not to venture out unless absolutely necessary as driving snow created blizzards. The M8 through Glasgow was main railway line. closed after two lorries were blown over and most west

Motorists were warned by coast ferry services were suspended in the wild weather. Fallen trees also halted all services oo the East Coast

The Forth and Tay Bridges

hicles, caravans and cyclists. Many island sailings by Scottish ferry operator Caledoniao MacBrayne were suspended, as were services to Northern Ire-

land from Strangaer.

weather showed no signs of settling down, "The wind is dying down but there will be heavy rain and we have issued weather warnings for billy areas which will be seeing prolonged rain over the next f

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n was a farmer of the second o

Hanged girl, 8, was victim of bullying at primary school

with a skipping rope in her bed-room had been bullied at her primary school. Marie Bentham was discov-

ered dead by her mother on Saturday night two days before she was due to return to school in Irlam, Greater Manchester, after the Christmas holidays.

She was last seen alive when she was sent to her room after an argument with her five-yearold sister. Her mother, Debbie. found her hanging when she went to check on her. She rang for an ambulance and was given advice on resuscitation from the

Last night, it emerged that Mrs Bentham had twice raised concerns about bullying at her

daughter's school. Police are oow investigating links between bullying and the tragedy. A spokesman for Salford Education Authority said yesterday that the incidents were not "anything out of the ordinary"

and had been fully investigated. Bentham did not mention bul-

lying when she spoke to police.

It is understood that Ms

allegations of bullying would be operator, who is now receiving considered as part of the investigation into all circumstances of the death. The results of a post-mortem examination

are expected today. Mark Carriline, director of education and leisure for Salford, confirmed the family had raised concerns last term. He said senior staff dealt with the events, which were logged. They reflect the kind of concerns which many parents raise during the course of the

school year," he said. It is understood one of the ingirls at Marie's school falling out. However Marie's aunt, Karen Bentham, said: "Marie said that she was being bullied at school

and did not want to go back." A special assembly was held at Moorfield primary school in Higher Irlam yesterday where the head teacher, John Walsh, paid tribute to Marie, who celebrated her birthday on Boxing Day. "This is a terrible tragedy and everyone at the school is deeply upset," he said. "She was such a popular pupil."

Ms Bentham was being comforted by relatives last night.

IN BRIEF

Cruelty case dog handlers sacked TWO POLICE dog handlers convicted of cruelty were

dismissed by the Chief Constable of Essex, David Stephens. Sergeant Andrew White, 38, and Constable Kenneth Boorman, 45, worked at the dog section where animals were kicked and one died. Sergeant Stephen Hopkins. 42, who was also convicted, was banned from working with dogs.

Shipman remanded in custody

A GP accused of killing eight patients was remanded in custody by magistrates in Tameside, Greater Manchester, yesterday. Harold Shipman, 52 was told he would be committed for crown court trial on Thursday on charges of killing Ivy Lomas, 63, and Marie Quinn, 67.

Boy, 15, found dead on beach POLICE IN Lincolnshire are investigating the death of a

15-year-old boy whose badly beaten body was found on a heach at Skegness yesterday. Officers are examining film from closed-circuit television cameras in Skegness town ceotre and from security cameras at a nightclub.

Prison officers hurt in fires

A TOTAL of 16 prison officers at Maghaberry Prison, Lisburn, Co Antrim, have gone on sick leave after fires were started by inmates angry at being locked up.

DAVID AARONOVITCH My children are almost



never late and homework is done on time

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

New suspect in toad massacres

TWO AMATEUR sleuths believe they may have solved the mystery of the legless toads. slaughtered by a killer who took only their legs.

Naturalists reported the first mass toad murder in 1997 when hundreds of legless corpses were found in south-west Scotland. Scientists said the legs had been expertly removed by pulling them out of their skin. leaving it turned inside out like a pair of used stockings.

Suspicion feli on local restaurateurs - but a oew analysis suggests they are in the clear.

Paul Duff, a vet in Culgath, Cumbria, and Stephen Hewitt, curator of natural sciences at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle, reopened the files of two similar incidents last year. At Winterhope reservoir, in Dumfries and Galloway, 355 mutilated toads were counted near the water's edge; while more than 30 toads were slaughtered

in a pond in a private garden. Pathology tests found that all the animals had suffered the same fate - a neat incision along the belly followed by the removal of the legs by pulling or "degloving" them. "There

BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

were, however, a number of significant additional findings the two researchers report in Veterinary Record.

When they re-examined the dead toads they found that some had suffered puncture holes in their skin - probably caused by tiny teeth. The remnants of toad leg bones were then found in nearby "spraints" or dung deposits of the British

otter. Lutra lutra. "There are now several reasons for considering that these incidents were caused by freeliving predators rather than humans," say the pair.

Mr Hewitt said that although the evidence falls short of proof that otters were to blame, it is the most incriminating information yet to emerge.

But one mystery remains. "It is curious that we have had no previous reports of large numbers of toads being killed in this way," Mr Hewitt said. He suggested that just one or two otters had learnt to extract the fleshiest parts of the toad - the legs - from the foul-tasting skin.

Stars rally to support Grade's 'fobbed off' aunt



THE MEDIA and theatre impresarios Michael Grade and Sir Cameron Mackintosh are embroiled in a dispute over the renaming of the Prioce of Wales Theatre in the West End of London.

The pair have been accused of stalling on a promise to rename the theatre after its former owner Lord Delfont, the late uncle of Mr Grade and a mentor of Sir Cameron.

Lady Delfont, whose husband ran the Prince of Wales, said she "was in despair" over the delay. She is backed by an impressive array of showbusiness stars including the actor Sir John Mills and the comedian Norman Wisdom.

Theatre insiders say that Mr Grade, the former head of Channel 4, and Sir Cameron, who are both oo the board of the company that owns the theatre, have had second thoughts as the name Prince of Wales is more marketable.

Neither Mr Grade oor Sir Cameron would comment other than to say that no date



The Prince of Wales Theatre, and its former owner, the late Lord Delfont

has been set for the renaming. Lady Delfont said the change was promised three years ago. She said: "I'm in despair

about it. They keep putting it off. It is very upsetting. I just keep getting fobbed off. I don't know whether I'll live to see it. People forget so easily. I don't see why they go on waiting. It's

Sir John Mills said there was "oo doubt whatsoever" that the change should go ahead, adding be was "sure it would meet with great approval from the entire profession". He was supported Norman Wisdom, fellow co-

median Russ Abbott and the singer Frankie Vaughan, who said it was "insensitive and indelicate" not to reveal when the change would take place.

Lord Delfont was a showbusiness giant, working right up until his death from a heart attack at the age of 84 in 1994. To millions he was the man vho escorted the Queen into the Royal Variety Performance. With his two brothers, Lew and Leslie Grade, he dominated the entertainment world for years, bringing over

American stars such as Judy

Garland to perform in London. He also founded the leisure owns 50 per cent of Delfont Mackintosh. Cameron Mackintosh owns the other half.

One close friend of Lord Delfoot, who did not wish to be named, said: "Why don't Grade and Mackintosh just allay people's fears and tell us when it's going to happen?

"Delfont founded Delfont Mackintosh [the company that owns the Prince of Wales] and helped Cameron a lot. Delfont was Michael Grade's uncle, for goodness sake. You would have thought the pair of them would be shouting from the rooftops



Michael Grade: Accused of stalling on a promise

Railways struggle to agree timetable

RAIL PASSENGERS may not BY PHILIP THORNTON be able to plan their journeys over one of the year's busiest holiday seasons because the industry is struggling to put together a timetable

Railtrack and the train operators have just four days to finalise the Easter timetable before incurring the wrath of the Rail Regulator. The industry admits the timetable is still not complete.

The companies were recently reprimanded for failing to organise services for the Christmas and New Year periods. As a last resort, they can

Under the complex system for regulating the privatised industry, the train companies and Railtrack must agree 12 weeks in advance which services will run and which will be cancelled for engineering work. This is to allow travellers to be able to book with confidence.

The Regulator, Chris Bolt, is worried the industry will not hit the target for Good Friday, which this year falls oo 2 April. Under the rule - known as T minus 12 - passengers should be able to book for the Friday holiday from 9 January. The industry has another week to hit

the deadline for Easter Monday. A spokeswoman for Railtrack said that where it had had hids from train operating com-panies (Tocs) it was "likely" the great majority of the timetable would be complete in time. But she added: "We have a few bits are some Tocs where we are actively working and there are some delays in the bidding sys-tem. We are hoping that it will be mostly uploaded on to the system for booking. The in-dustry is working very hard on

Transport Correspondent

said: "T minus 12 is not just for Christmas, it is for the whole year round, but there are obvious pinch points such as halfterm holidays and Easter. Our concerns still exist because the processes are not right yet to enable T minus 12 to be a reliable programme." But he said early signs showed the industry was better prepared than it was 13 weeks before Christmas. The Office of the Rail Regu-

lator has called for a comprehensive review to improve the system, which was started by the Conservative government five years ago. The regulator's spokesman admitted T minus 12 was a "trifle optimistic" but said the 12-week period itself was not up for renegotiation.

The problem stems from the fact that Railtrack, which has an ambitious engineering programme, uses bank holidays to carry out maintenance work to avoid disrupting commuters. Meanwhile, train firms want to run more services to attract new passengers. The 25 train companies cur-

a fine from Mr Bolt. They will be fined £500,000 unless they improve markedly the telephone inquiry service, which has not met performance targets. Railtrack has offered to donate up to £10,000 to charity after an administrative error led to north London resider being given just one week's notice of 60 hours of noisy engineering work over Christmas. The company carried out "unavoidably noisy" work - involving drills, cranes and flood-

lights – along the West Coast main line near Primrose Hill.



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e Editor ionevez a number of sig additional indines o researchers report in tary Record. en they re-examined the toads they found that had suffered paretur i by tiny teeth. The next of toad leg bores were and in nearby "suring ig deposits of the British

Lutra lutra. Here are now several res or considering that the nts were caused by the predators father the ns," say the pair Hewitt said that shholk whence falls short clumb diers were to blunk of nost incriminating the tone meter remains

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6-year campaign

Stalker jailed for

A FORMER Royal Navy petty of ficer who has stalked a woman Crime Correspondent for six years and is said to have "destroyed" ber life was jailed for four months yesterday.

It is the fourth time Anthoto prison for harassing Tracey

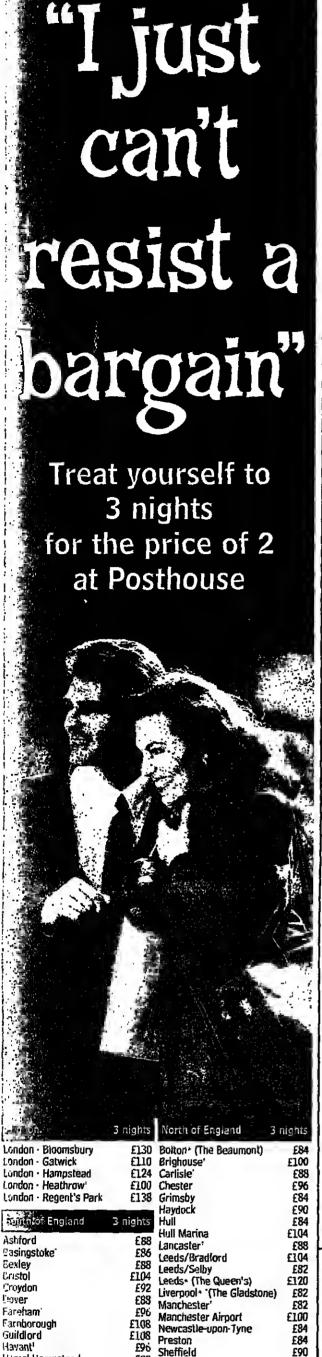
Burstow was jailed for three years in March 1996 after being convicted of inflicting psychological grievous bodily harm on his victim in a case that set a precedent and which played a part in the introduction of antistalking laws in 1997.

Magistrates at Bracknell, Berkshire, jailed Burstow yesterday for 16 weeks. He had been found guilty at an earlier hearing of harassing Ms Morgan. The bench also banned him from entering Berkshire, where his victim lives, or from

communicating with Ms Morgan, her family or friends. The court was told he had continued ny Burstow, 39, has been sent his stalking campaign against her after being released from

prison on licence in June 1997. In January last year, Burstow sent Ms Morgan a birthday card, and parked his car near her bome in Crowthorne, breaking the conditions of his parole. Previously he had bornbarded her with telephone calls and letters, broken into her home, stolen her underwear

and followed her. Outside the court, Ms Morgan said: "Justice has been done today but ... I just feel there are so many loopholes in the legal system that need to be addressed and highlighted."



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Posthouse 0345 40 40 40 Quoting reference NEW YEAR 6 A division of Forte Hetels

"Ijust Third pupil can't contracts resist a meningitis

A TEENAGER who used to at- By Louise Jury tend the school where two friends dled of meningitis is attempt to combat the spread thought to have contracted the of germs.

Louise Salmons, 16, was undergoing tests at Barnsley District General Hospital yesterday where she was said to be in a stable condition.

She was a pupil of Wath Comprehensive School near Rotherham, Yorkshire, until June and remained a member of the same social circle as the school's two meningitis victims. Claire Wilkinson, 14, and ber friend Adam Rawson, 15, both died from the meningococcal C strain on New Year's

Dr Tim Patterson, Rotherham'a director of public health. said Louise was being treated as a probable case of meningi-

He added: "What actually kills people is aepticaemia, which is blood poisoning. You can get it from any of the bacterial forms of meningitis. "In Rotherham, we have

seen a lot of septicaemia, which seems to be C strain. The teenage age group do seem to have a higher fatality rate - it seems to strike them down." All 1,700 pupils at the school

at Wath-on-Dearne were given antibiotics at the weekend in an

Britain may have prevented a

far worse outbreak of flu than

the one currently sweeping the

country experts said vesterday.

The Sydney flu, which forced

more than 45,000 people to take

to their beds over Christmas,

was detected in a handful of

cases last winter and incorpo-

rated into the flu vaccine given

to the elderly and vulnerable in

flu monitoring unit of the Royal

College of General Practition-

ers, said: "If it wasn't in the vac-

cine strain, the outbreak of flu

now would most certainly have

been worse. But because we

have good surveillance in

place, it was picked up last

His unit reported 93 cases of

flu for every 100,000 people for

the week to 27 December. The

the autumn.

winter'

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE in BY LOUISE JURY

After the form of meningitis was identified as one that can be vaccinated against, an immunisation programme was launched at the school yesterday. The school is to remain closed today as a mark of respect and pupils will return to lessons tomorrow.

Michelle Dowdall, whose 12year-old son Liam is at the school, said she was very impressed with the steps that had been taken since the

"I am shocked to think what has bappened is on our doorstep. f am a bit worried but very impressed that they have agreed to immunise the children which is a good step.

"My son is OK. He is taking it all in his stride. Kids do-it's the parents who tend to worry."

Dawn Johnson, who has a 12-year-old daughter at the school, said: "We were worried before but now we have seen everything and they have explained it all we feel better."

Robert Godber, head teacher Wath Comprehensive, said parents and pupils had reacted with a "calm dignity" to the

Vaccine averted flu chaos

porthern and central England

A rate of fewer than 50 cases

per 100,000 people is common-

place in winter, between 50 and

300 is usual when flu viruses are

circulating, and more than 200

is rated as above average.

Above 400 is "exceptional" and

more cases of the Peking flu,

which caused problems last

North and central regions, but

up to now not in the South. I

cannot think that's a situation

that can continue - I expect a

Health Laboratory Service.

sharp increase in the South."

We have seen it rise in the

winter hit the South.

Dr Fleming said be expect-

regarded as an epidemic.

with only 41 in the South.

ritation, no hysteria. That strikes me as a very remarkable reflection on the community here. Obviously people are anxious, but they have all been absolutely spiendid."

Meningitis can be viral or

bacterial Anne-Marie Delrosa of the National Meningitis Trust said it was the bacterial form that could kill. The A strain was rarely seen in the UK. B was the main cause of bacterial meningitis, with C the second cause.

A rash that does not disapear when pressed firmly is the distinctive feature, but flu-like symptoms alone can indicate meningitis infection. Cases have been on the increase for the past decade although there was a slight drop towards the end of 1998.

This time of the year sees the highest incidence of the disease. Yesterday it was reported that a six-year-old boy from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. was though to have died of meningitis C on 29 December. A suspected meningitis patient, a 38-year-old woman, was flown 180 miles from Arrowe Park Hospital in the Wirral to North Tees General in Middlesbrough because no other intensive care

bed was available. ■ The National Meningitis Trust bas an information belpline on 0845 6000800.



Selina Haagenson: Asking where her daddy is

Britain refuses girl entry to see father

illness. "If you have flu, you tend to know it and be totally knocked out. The best thing to do is get to bed, drink liquids and take medication to relieve

the symptoms." A spokesman for SmithKline Beecham, which makes cold and flu remedies, said: "There was certainly a significant sales increase in the run-up to Christmas and this has continued to accelerate."

nificantly as the Sydney flu and NHS Confederation representing health authorities and trusts, said the current problems in hospitals were not principally the result of the flu outbreak "Every year, this is the busiest week of the bealth service year - everybody puts off their illness and then rushes to the doctor after the boli-Simon Barber, of the Public day period," he said. The unique factor this winter was the significant shortage of staff, particularly nurses. That is the

special ingredient," be said.

THE FOREIGN Office is refus- BY IAN BURRELL ing to allow a two-year-old British girl to come to this country to see her father for the first time because he is a prison inmate.

Selina Haagenson, who will be three in July, was born in the Philippines, shortly after her father, Paul, a Yorkshire businessman, was arrested and iailed in Britain. Her family say that although the girl has British citizenship, Foreign Ofher Filipina mother a British visa on the basis that the woman would not be living with her husband and might try

to claim state benefits. The treatment, which has important implications for the rights of prisoners, has shocked Selina's grandparents, who have sworn an affidavit to take full responsibility for their granddaughter and 34-year-old daughter in law, Rosalie, until Haagenson's release.

Home Affairs Correspondent

Haagenson's mother, Frieda, said immigration officials had been allowed to examine the family's finances. She said there was a self-contained apartment within her Blackpool bome where she wished her daughter-in-law to stay. "Rosalie is a lovely, well-educated girl and was absolutely heartbroken when Paul was arrest-"I have spoken to her many times on the telephone and Seli-na is now asking where ber daddy is and pointing to his photograph."

The decision to refuse the visa application was taken at the British embassy in Manila. In a letter, the embassy's entry clearance officer stated: "I am not satisfied that each of the parties intend to live permanently with each other as busband and wife. Further-

more, I am not satisfied that there will be adequate accommodation for you and your spouse without recourse to public funds in accommodation which you and your spouse own or occupy exclusively." He adds that he does not believe the couple will in future be able to maintain themselves

without access to public funds. But in a letter from Wymott prison in Lancashire where he is serving a 10-year sentence tor smuggling cani genson, 46, accused the Foreign Office of basing its decision "on the level of a fortune teller with a crystal ball".

His family said he still owns a house in North Yorkshire. where he intends to rebuild his former business, selling traditional stoves and cookers.

His wife, who has been refused five applications for visas, said: "I feel our treatment is inhumane and not that of a civilised country."

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latest "gures from the Public said both strains now prevalent

Health Laboratory Service in Britain caused the aches

show 103 cases per 100,000 in and pains associated with the

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Green activists occupy offices

THE LONDON beadquarters of BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY Shell, the oil multinational, and of London Underground were both occupied yesterday by separate groups of environmental activists.

Thirteen demonstrators took over offices belonging to Shell in a protest against the company's operations in Nigeria, while nearly 20 green activists occupied London Underground's headquarters in protest at the Government's plans to privatise parts of the Tube network.

The Shell protesters said they were acting in sympathy with the liaw people in the Niger delta, who are in dispute with the company other big oil firms and the provincial gov-

AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

ernment over the way the oil business is run locally. Demonstrations by liaw

groups have led to fatal clashes with the Nigerian security forces in the past week. Police said six Ijaws have died but activists said at least 26 people have been killed since 30 December, and yesterday one report from Nigeria said the death toll had reached 240.

The Ijaws are demanding that the oil companies apply better environmental standards to their operations, and want them to leave the area until this is agreed.

Yesterday's demonstrators.

"three groups of environmental and human rights protesters" without giving further details, took over management offices of Shell UK in Shell-Mex House in the Strand at 9am. They claimed to be occupying the offices of Chris Fay, the retiring chairman and chief

who described themselves as

executive, and Malcolm Brinded, his successor. They were removed and arrested by police four hours later on suspicion of causing criminal Activists from the organisa-

tion Reclaim The Streets (RTS) entered London Underground's headquarters above St James's Park Tube station yesterday morning to protest at the public-private partnership intended for the Underground. which they say will lead to price increases and fewer people using public transport.

Despite the fact that the privatisation of British Rail is now recognised as a disaster New Labour is proceeding with plans to sell off parts of the Tube network," said an RTS spokesman.

"It is estimated that the privarisation process will cost around £100m. This could be much better spent on improving the service."

London Underground confirmed yesterday that 15 to 20 protesters had entered their headquarters and were later led away by police officers.

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Now's the time

Man quizzed over attacks on women

A MAN was being held last night By JASON BENNETTO in connection with the kidnap and assault of a mother and her teenage daughter while they were walking their dog on New

Detectives are also examining possible links between the man, who is in his 40s, and the murders of Kate Bushell, a 14year-old girl from Exeter, and Lynda Bryant, a 41-year old Cornish woman, who were killed in the past 14 months.

The suspect was arrested at about 6pm on Sunday in Torquay in connection with the attack on the mother and daughter in Netherton, near Newton Abbot, Devon.

The arrest followed the recovery of a Vauxhall Cavalier fitting the description of the car used by the attacker. Police said they found the vehicle in the Lichfield Avenue area of the town and were carrying out forensic science tests on it.

The 48-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter were assaulted as they walked their black labrador in a country lane near Netherton.

The attacker deliberately drove his car into the girl, knocking her down, according to the police. Mother and daughter were then driven to a field where the girl grabbed the

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Crime Correspondent

woman struggled to get out of the car. The man allegedly lashed out with a knife, badly cutting the woman's hands.

They ran to a house to raise the alarm, and the mother was taken to hospital in Plymouth where the wounds to her hands

were treated. She may need plastic surgery Police later praised the pair for their bravery.

The man being held at Torquay police station was undergoing forensic science examinations yesterday and detectives are not expected to question him until later today.

Police are also examining similarities with two recent murders in the South-west. Mrs Bryant a mother of

two, from the hamlet of Ruan High Lanes, was killed last October. She was seen talking to a man less than an hour before her body was discovered in a field. She was stabbed in the back, neck and throat.

Miss Bushell had her throat cut while walking near her home in Exeter, Devon, in November 1997.

Both victims were walking dogs along country lanes. In each case the motive is thought man round the neck and the to have been sexual but there

was no actual sexual assault. In the Bushell case the police are still looking for a light blue Vauxhall Astra van and in the Bryant case they are still searching for a white van. A police spokesman said:

"There has been liaison between the officers of the Newton Abbot offence and officers involved in the outstanding murders in Devon and Cornwall." He added: "They all involve a woman taking a dog for walk along a country lane."

Police have also examined unsolved murders carried out in other parts of the country, but no links have yet been discover with the Devon and Cornwall



Pigeons in London's Trafalgar Square meet 'Cirque de Soleil' cast members who will be appearing at the Royal Albert Hall Mark Chilven

Lawyer touts

A LAWYER who believes most BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH of his clients end up in trouble after drinking too much has started advertising his services

to see the mats, which have

Mr Lyall, 52, defended his use of the beer-mats, which bear his photograph, telephone number, address and the words

in trouble because they have too much to drink so the pub seems to me to be an eminently sensible place to advertise," he

"I am aware that some members of the legal profession might be a bit stuffy about this and I have heard of some muttering but I believe I have acted in accordance with Law Society advertising regulations. In an increasingly competitive market place it is important to use imaginative marketing tech-

Douglas Mill, the secretary of the Law Society, said Mr Lyall had not sought approval Andy Lyall, a senior partner for the unorthodox advertising

> "This probably doesn't infringe our advertising regulations but I would like to see the mats first," he said.

with the dignity of the profes-

"It doesn't sound illegal but I don't think it is something that will fill the rest of the profession with joy."
Mike Halford, the owner of

one of the pubs using the beermats, said most customers had been amused by them.

They have caused quite a stir and most people have had a good laugh about it.

avail themselves of Mr Lvall's services as advertised on the

for trade on beer-mats

with the firm of Lvall & Co in Dundee said his marketing ploy had won him dozens of new clients, but the Scottish Law Society was more wary. It wants been distributed around the I have heard of anything like city's pubs, before giving apthis. It's possible that a lot proval to the scheme.

"defence lawyer".
"Many of my clients end up

said yesterday.

niques to promote business and that is what I am doing."

"This is certainly the first

of solicitors might deem it naff and not in accordance sion, and if any member of the public thinks it is unprofessional they can bring it to our

We are always telling peo ple not to drink and drive but if they don't listen they can always

TERENCE BLACKER



I suddenly realised 'South Park' had some undenlably disgusting moments

TULSDAY RIATIAN PAGE 4

informative:

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Markets welcome single currency

THE FINANCIAL markets gave By Andrew Garfield the euro a warm welcome on its trading debut yesterday with the stock markets of the 11 participating nations soaring more than 6 per cent in anticipation of massive amounts of money flowing into European mar-

kets over the coming months. Milan was the best performer, soaring 6.44 per cent on the local Mib30 index, with Madrid, Frankfurt and Paris all registering gains of more than 5 per cent on the day.

The broking houses are predicting that over the next few months the big pension funds dominating the financial markets will start shifting their portfolios to take into account

Financial Editor

there is effectively just one, \$10trillion capital market in which to invest.

David Bowers at Merrill Lynch, the American investment bank said: "We expect EMU (economic and monetary union] to lead to significant changes in investor and corporate behaviour." Investors, he added, will no longer be constrained by currency in choosing whether shares in an Italian company for example, offer better value than a German firm.

The euro itself had a good first day's trading, rising nearly three-quarters of a per cent

FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL REACTION

compared with the initial reference rate of \$1.16675 set by European Union finance ministers on New Year's Eve.

Investors' enthusiasm for the "euroland" markets was in sharp contrast to the lacklustre performance of London's FTSE index which closed 3.2 down at 5879.4 on the first day's trading of the year Sterling, too, had a poor day, slipping one fifth of a penny to 0.7109 euros in what many fear will be a foretaste of life on the margins of the new euro area.

"The euro has had a very auspicious start," said Nick Parsons, City economist at but not a great deal less than has performed like a dog. Ster-



An anti-euro protester in the City yesterday

Paribas, the leading French you would expect on the first bank. "The volume has been trading day after the New less than on a normal Monday Year." He added: "The pound

ling risks being marginalised as more and more companies switch to presenting their accounts in euro."

Dealers said that many investors were deliberately choosing to put through small orders just to test the system.

"Normally we would see thirty to forty deals of \$100m or so. Today there have been lots of \$1m, \$2m and \$5m," Mr Par-

The bond markets saw their first "euro-euro" issue - a 500 million euro bond issued jointly by Nomura, ABN-Amro and Deutsche Bank on behalf

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS AND LOSERS IN THE NEW EUROPE?

al bank. The real test of the depth and liquidity of the euro bond market will come this week when the German government launches its first euro denominated issue.

Banks reported that the changeover weekend had gone without a hitch, with some completing the process earlier than planned. One big German bank, Commerzbank, had had to call in 200 computer staff on Sunday to iron out a mismatch between the bank's software and some healthcare programmes in Frankfurt. The head of trading later called his opposite numbers at other banks to reassure them the bank would be

ready to trade on time yester-

headed the unit responsible for euro conversion at the London offices of Nomura, the Japanese bank, said yesterday that some investors were clearly hanging back. "Trading is relatively slow but then that is normal for the first day back after a long New Year's holiday. There have been no mishaps." Mr Tompkinson said.

In Frankfurt which, next to London, has been the financial centre most in the spotlight because it is home to the new European Central Bank, dealers reported trading running at around a quarter of normal.

"It has gone far more smoothly then any of us dared hope." Mr Parsons said.

Sea change will redraw landscape

HISTORY'S VERDICT on the BY DIANE COYLE success or failure of the euro will rest on the power of the competitive forces it unleashes. For unless European business becomes more productive, and consumers enjoy lower prices, there is no economic ra-

ionale for the single currency. But beneath the blanket economic gains for Europe will lie winners and losers in different

The removal of the obstacle of national exchange rates will redraw the industrial landscape of the entire continent.

Successful industries tend to concentrate in particular geographical clusters. The phenomenon has been documented by leading management experts such as Harvard University's Michael Porter or Oxford's John Kay and was emphasised in the Government's recent White Paper on competitive-

But the boundaries imposed by the existence of separate national currencies has meant that Europe has had far more centres of excellence in every industry than the United

Economics Editor

States. EU husinesses have therefore generally been much less productive that their US counterparts because they have been unable to exploit the same economies of pro-

of nearly 300 million people. Countries that already enjoy

ment that advantage.

whole industries as Europe comes to look much more like the US. This is particularly true in

heavy industry such as steel production or car manufacture, where the costs of building and running the plant and equipment are high, and businesses such as pharmaceuticals, which require hig investment in research and development

The member countries al- cars and Finland's in highready have particular strengths technology communications

ducing on a large scale. All this is changing with the launch of a true single market

a geographical concentration of particular industries within their borders will probably ce-Their rivals stand to lose



Cars

Car makers should see some of the most dramatic gains from a single currency as all have cross-border

operations, which have suffered from the vagaries of exchange rate changes. But it could see more

consulidation into one or two regions than most other industries as the economies of scale in car production are so great. After all, the US has only Detroit.

So, for example, Italy's tra-

ditional lead in textiles and

leather goods, Germany's in

arrival of the euro.

Winners: Germany, Italy A TENNESSE AND MAN SOLL CONTROL FOR SIZE WITH

in certain industries. These will become even more proare likely to be cemented by the nounced.

The UK has its own strengths, with financial services and pharmaceuticals being the most obvious. To some extent British busi-

Engineering

The European engineering

Industry is a patchwork

of businesses ranging.

from glant conglomerates

to family firms, and is

ripe for consolidation.

Germany has a clear.

advantage over the rest

of the EU in many areas

of engineering, especially

in mechanical engineering

although tess so in

high-technology:

electronics

Winner: Germany

take advantage of the creation of a big market free of boundaries. The catch is, of course, that Britain has stayed out of the first wave and, worse, re-

London sees more foreign

exchange dealing than

anywhere else in the world

and has the biggest EU

stock market. But there is a

big question mark over

whether staying out of the

euro will harm London's

lead. The big European banks

are expected to grow even

bigger through cross-border

mergers, posing

more competition

to Britain.

Winner: UK or Germany

mained lukewarm about joining For the next few years that

Financial services **Pharmaceuticals**

This is one industry where . the UK has shone. With the biggest pharmaceuticals companies being in the UK,

US and Switzerland the creation of a true single market ought to be an unambiguous plus for the industry leaders. The one carch will be the wide variations in price across the

EU. Prices are likely to fall to the lowest European levels. Winner: UK

is unlikely to harm the UK's

star performers. In the longer

term, however, even the areas

of excellence in British indus-

try could lose out to centres of

competition on the mainland.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

According to David Owen at

Retailing

line of greater competition and price transparency. Shoppers will be unwilling to tolerate blg differences in

costs. The French supermarkets have so far been the most aggressive about pricing competitively in euros and expanding into other countries. Outsiders such as America's Wal-Mart also plan to invade the euro countries.

Winner: France

the London investment bank:

"If we stay out of the first wave.

we'll be fine. If we stay out be-

yond that we will pay the penal-



Textiles

Retailers will be on the front. Europe has two countries that still have a significant textiles and clothing industry, the UK and Italy. Italy has concentrated on upmarket items. Britain has

tended to remain embroiled in doomed competition with low-cost developing economies. Italy's clothing industry is one of the most successful in the world. The

euro will reinforce its dominance.

Analysts reckon the husi-

ness earthquake will last at

most five to ten years. In some

industries there could be an en-

Winner: Italy

ty. The clustering will happen tirely new competitive landin the rest of Europe, even in scape before Britain has even the sectors where we have an got round to holding a referendum on whether to join.



Don't miss The Independent this Thursday for our preview to the 'Big Blue' London Boat Show.

*THE INDEPENDENT

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BIG BLUE EXPERIENCE AT THE LONDON BOAT SHOW

New York soars into new era

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York

threaten the decades-old hegemony of the US dollar as the world's premier reserve currency, but yesterday it received an enthusiastic welcome from American investors and currency dealers.

Following the lead of European markets, shares rocketed that we can rattle them off on Wall Street, with the blue when necessary," said Mike chip Dow Jones average gain- Malpede, a senior currency aning more than 150 points in

WALL STREET

ONE DAY the euro could be morning trading. "All eyes are come powerful enough to on the launch of the euro." said Peter Cardillo, of Westfalia Investments in New York

On the foreign currency

market, dealers greeted the debut of the new currency with studied calm. "Basically we are trying to get our bearings, memorising the new quotes so alyst at Refco Group.

The outlook for the euro's value against the dollar ap-

any analyst who is negative on the euro," Mr Malpede added. The Clinton administration has been consistently supportive of the new currency's introduction. "Some have argued that a Europe with a single number in the global directory might ultimately pose a threat to the United States," the

Deputy Treasury Secretary.

Larry Summers, said recently. But in a global economy, the United States has infinitely less to fear from an open and integrated Europe that continues to take its share in global repeared strong. "I don't know of spousibilities.

Jeffrey Shafer, a former Treasury under-secretary, said: "I don't see the euro as a real threat even if it carves out more of a share than the Deutschmark and the other European currencies combined. There are other funda-

Cheap mortgages for the few

BY NIC CICUTTI Personal Finance Editor

BORROWERS HOPING to cut do so in the next few weeks, no the cost of their home loans by other lender was prepared to taking out a euro-denominated mortgage at lower interest rates were given short shrift yesterday by the overwhelming

majority of lenders. With the exception of Bar-Abbey National, which hopes to rency rates move against you.

HOME LOANS

enter the fray. All lenders cited currency

risks as the main reason for declining to offer euro-mortgages. "It is the equivalent of being paid in one currency but payclays Bank, which launched its ing off the loan in another," said euro-mortgage this week, and a Halifax spokesman. "If cur-

you could end up paying significantly more than through a standard mortgage."

Barclays, whose euro-loan was available yesterday, said it was restricting applications to people whose salaries are paid in euros. They will have to pay their salaries into a euro account with the bank while the

cent of the value of their home. Abbey National said it planned to operate a similarly restrictive

Barclays yesterday set its euro loan at 4.7 per cent for the next 90 days, when it will be reviewed. On a £100,000 interestonly mortgage, this would mean payments of £371.88 a month. A UK-linked variable rate of 7.7 per cent would mean monthly payments of £614.50 on loan will be restricted to 65 per the same debt.

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Massacre in village mosque kills 17

AT LEAST 17 worshippers were By ANWAR IQBAL killed in a hail of machine-gun bullets after morning prayers in a Shia mosque in central Pakistan vesterday. The victims, in the remote village of Quereshi More, 180 miles south of Lahore, had just finished the prayers that precede the all-day fast of the Ramadan period when eight gunmen arrived.

Two of the men burst into the mosque and opened fire. A third stood at the door, cutting down those who tried to flee. A fourth waited in the getaway car. Most of the 50-odd Shias at prayer were hit; at least 17 died and more than 20 others were wounded, 12 of them critically. The dead included three children.

"We all were praying when bullets started hitting us from the back," said one victim, being treated at a nearby hospital. "I was hit by bullets and then I fell unconscious." Wit-nesses said neighbours rushed to the mosque, grabhing small children and old men, cradling the dead and comforting the wounded. "Blood was splattered all over the floor of the mosque," one man who runs a small restaurant near the mosque said. "The wounded and the dead all seemed to be piled on each other."

The attack came a day after a bomb destroyed a bridge near the country residence in Punjab of the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, in an apparent attempt to assassinate him. The bomb, which killed four people, went off as Mr Sharif was supposed to be crossing the bridge. A delay in the departure seems to have saved his life. Mr Sharif yesterday denounced the slaughter and said his government was "fully determined to weed out terrorism".

in Islamabad AND PETER POPHAM

The massacre caused panic across the country. Many people now fear an upsurge in the wave of sectarian killings that has claimed more than 3,500 lives in the past five years.

Spontaneous demonstrations were staged as citizens protested at the failure of the government to control the sectarian violence.

At the scene of yesterday's attack, outraged villagers chanted anti-government slogans and blocked the road to the village with burning tyres. The majority Sunni and minority Shia communities have been engaged in tit-for-tat killings since the early 1990s, Punjab being the area worst affected.

It is probably no coincidence that both the assassination attempt and the massacre occurred after the first serious attempt by Mr Sharif's government to get to grips with Pakistan's endemic anarchy. In November Mr Sharif imposed martial law on the port city of Karachi, where rival gangs of terrorists representing MOM. the main political party of Muslims who migrated from India at Partition, and its breakaway factions, had brought bloody mayhem to the city's streets for months on end.

After dismissing the provincial government, Mr Sbarif rounded up bundreds of MQM partisans and set up special military-style courts to try them for terrorist offences. On Monday, an MQM volunteer was hanged at Karachi central prison for kidnapping and rap-



Outraged villagers chant anti-government slogans at the site of the massacre near Multan city, Puniab. vesterday

volvement in the attempt to kill Mr Sharif, hut senior police and intelligence officials in Islamabad Insist that MQM and an extremist Sunni group called Sipah-i-Sahaba were at the top of their list of suspects. "Although we are also looking

such as India or Iran, those two groups are the prime suspects," a senior intelligence of-

Although there is no plain interest in common between the MOM, which contains both Sunni and Shia members, and the Sunni groups, which con-

tains both migrants and Pakistani natives, they have found common cause in seeking to destabilise Pakistan's central government, and there is over-

The government has annoyed the Sunni extremists by trying to improve its relations

lap between the organisations.

with Shia Iran. The Sunni parimprove relations between the tisans assert that Pakistan's neighbouring countries. Shia minority gets arms and Ramadan, when religious money from Iran. Tehran demes this. The Sunnis have been

further exasperated by the cur-

rent visit to Iran by the too civil

servant in Pakistan's foreign

sensitivities are sharpened by the hunger pangs of the pious. is often a season of outrages and turmoil in Pakistan, with extremists on both sides attempting to score points and ministry, a visit designed to

provoke disorder. That it has roved so again this year suggests that although Nawaz Sharif has concentrated more power in his own hands than any preceding Pakistani prime minister, he remains largely helpless before the destructive forces within the nation.

Rapist's execution is halted with three hours to spare

A CHILD RAPIST escaped death By STEPHEN VINES by lethal injection with three in Hong Kong hours to spare yesterday when the Philippines supreme court postponed his execution. Leo stances it was unreasonable to Echegaray, 38, would have been carry out the execution. the first man executed in the Philippines since 1976.

The condemned man bad been moved to a rubber-padded holding cell and was eating his last meal when the delay was announced.

The Philippines abolished the death penalty in 1987, but restored it in 1994 because of a

resurgence in crime. The reprieve was granted because the Philippines Congress is due to reconsider its stand on the death penalty. By a majority of eight to five the judges de-

cided that in such circum-

On Sunday the authorities had barricaded the jail in the capital, Manila. Rival groups of supporters and opponents of the death penalty gathered for sombre demonstrations and aver meetings

While he has been on death row, Echegaray has married Zenaida Javier, two years his junior. She vowed to commit suicide if her busband of one month was executed. He pleaded for her to be allowed to hold his hand while the injection was administered.

Filipino film-makers have been queuing up to buy rights to the Echegaray story. The new Mrs Echegaray denies any interest in profiting from this. Echegaray's story is a grue-

some one. His former wife left him when he started having an affair with a neighbour. She then remarried but later returned to Echegaray with a daughter known as "Baby", conceived while living with ber second busband. Echegaray was found guilty of raping Baby when she was just 10 years old. She now lives with a foster family and wants ber former stepfather put to death. "I feel hurt every time I hear things

ment in the Philippines. about me," she told reporters.

The Filipino President, was greeted by emotional

Joseph Estrada, a former film star who often played the role of avenging hero to the poor, had supported the execution. He had told Baby be would not grant clemency.

At the weekend President Estrada explained his decision to back the execution by quoting the 13th-century theologian St Thomas Aquinas: "Although it be evil to kill a man so long as he preserves his dignity, yet it may be good to kill a man who has sinned even as it is to kill a beast".

The powerful Catholic church has provided the main opposition to capital punish-

The reprieve for Echegaray



President Joseph Estrada with 'Baby', who was raped by her stepfather, death-row prisoner Leo Echegaray AFP

scenes outside the jail but with disappointment from the President's office. Jerry Barican, his spokesman, said: "What should be done is to enforce the [execution] as quickly as possible. It [clemency] may send the

wrong signal to persons com-

mitting crimes. President Estrada appeared at a news conference with Baby, now 15 years old. "Evil has its time, but the good will always have their day," he said.

Demonstrators to greet Blair

TONY BLAIR will be bounded BY RHODA DAVIDS by angry Muslims on the left and irate conservative Afrikaners on the right when be makes his first official visit to South Africa tomorrow. Muslim groups plan to

pester the Prime Minister with demonstrations over British participation in air attacks on Iraq last month; Afrikaners are demanding an apology for alleged ethnic cleansing and war crimes dating from the Boer war, the centenary of which will

be remembered this year. Blair is scheduled to arrive in Pretoria tomorrow and to travel to Cape Town on Friday. Muslims against Global Oppression

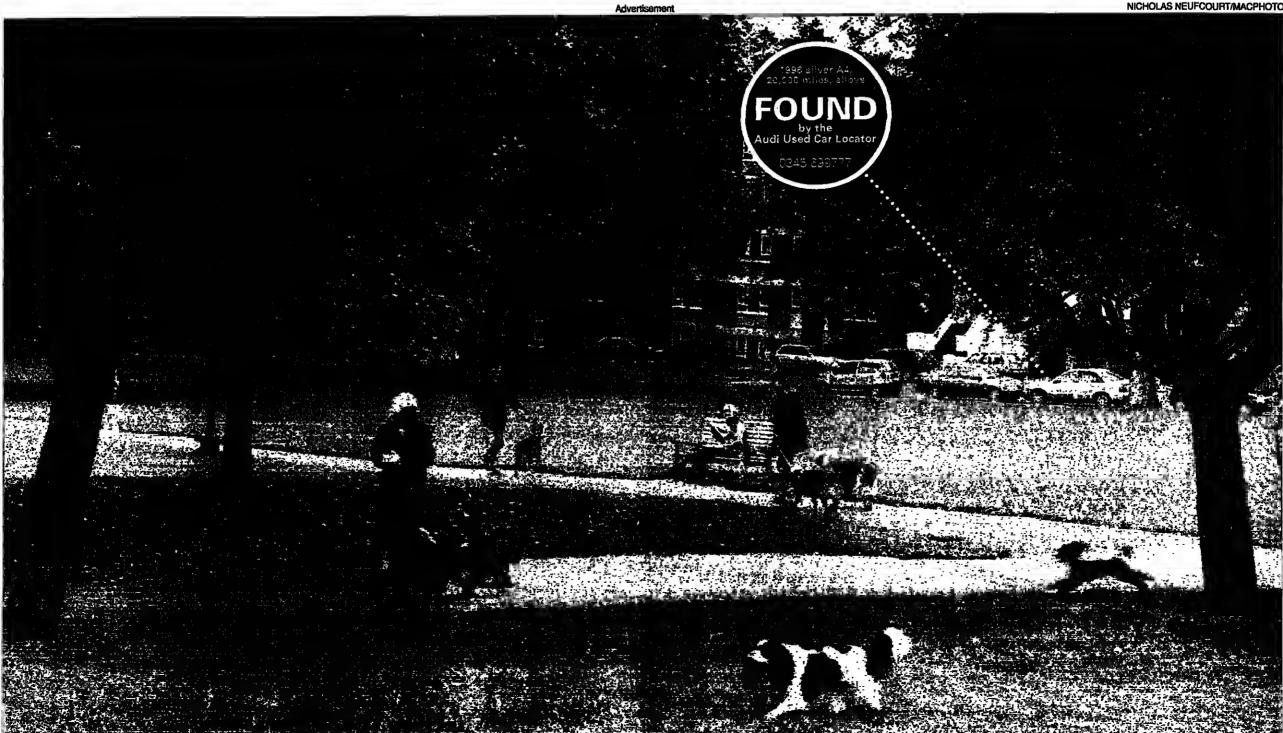
(Mago) will bold a mass demon-

stration on Thursday in Cape

in Cape Town

Town with further protests planned elsewhere."We don't agree with the bombing of Iraq and are disgusted at the killing of innocent women and children," said Moaim Achmad, a Mago spokesman. "We will follow Blair wherever he goes."

Meanwhile, the SA Press Association reported that the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) had dismissed a statement from 10 Downing Street expressing sorrow about the many deaths in the Boer war and insisted on an unqualified apology from Mr Blair for pain and suffering caused to Afrikaners during the conflict.



WPC Katie Willis (seated, on bench) on the lookout for stolen dogs in a south London park yesterday. There has been a spate of canine thefts in the area recently.

Elizabeth Dole 'to run' for president

WASHINGTON was abuzz with By MARY DEJEVSKY speculation yesterday that Elizabeth Dole, the 62-year-old wife of the former Republican vicepresident, Bob Dole, was preparing a bid for the Presidency in the year 2000 - one of very few women to embark on President." a presidential race.

Mrs Dole, who was a member of the cabinet under Ronald Reagan as transport secretary and George Bush as labour secretary, was expected to resign as President of the American Red Cross, a post she has held since 1991, with a break in 1996 to support her husband's - failed - presidential run.

Mrs Dole has hitherto dismight stand herself, despite strong backing from some sections of the Republican Party. including in her home state of

in Washington

tions on her behalf. He has joked: "I've still got a chance to get to the White House, and that's if Elizabeth runs for

And while her own statements have played down the likelihood that she would run, she has never ruled it out and the high profile she has pursued recently, including a muchpublicised trip to Central America after Hurricane Georges, suggested she could still be

Her immediate plans include trips to Iowa and New Hampcouraged reports that she shire, two states considered key to any presidential run because of their early party primary contests.

While few in Washington be-North Carolina, and her hus- lieve Mrs Dole to be a credible

as a possible running mate for George W Bush, the Governor of Texas and son of the former president. He is much-fancied should he decide to run.

That raises the prospect not as dismal to Republicans, apparently, as experience might suggest - of a second **Bush-Dole presidential ticket** for the year 2000.

The only candidates to have filed formally to start fundraising for the next presidential contest are, on the Republican side, John McCain of Arizona, and on the Democratic side, Vice-President Al Gore, who filed papers last week, and Bill Bradley of New Jersey. John Ashcroft of Missouri, a rightwing Republican, is expected to announce his candidacy shortly, but Mr Bush is reportedly still undecided

Mrs Dole, though often de-

unavoidable.

she has been widely canvassed scribed as a "Southern belle" has spent 25 years in government and is the only woman to have held two US cabinet posts. She appears regularly in lists of "most admired woman" in America. Last year she was third, behind Hillary Clinton and Oprah Winfrey.

But perhaps her most populist step so far was her willing ness to discuss her husband's treatment with Viagra, the impotence drug. Mr Dole had revealed that as a former sufferer from prostate cancer, he had been among a trial group for the drug. Mrs Dole decorously confirmed its positive effects on her

With Bill Clinton's two election victories and his continued popularity widely attributed to his support from women, many Republicans acknowledge that a more female-friendly ticket could improve their chances.



Prostitute's claim looms over Clinton Senate trial

WITH ONLY two days remaining before the United States Senate convenes to consider President Bill Clinton's impeachment, political pressure is mounting for a postponement of the State of the Union address, the President's annual report to the US Congress, which is scheduled for 19 January.

Several senior senators argued it would be "unseemly" for the President to deliver his report with a trial pending, or a curtailed trial when Conwhile he was on trial.

But uncertainty surrounding the State of the Union address was just one of the troubles bearing down on Mr Clinton at Republican majority, which is the start of what is expected to split about the constitutional be a crucial week for the

media maintained their silence on the latest Clinton scandalmongering, the revival of allegations that he fathered a child by a black prostitute in Arkansas was the talk of radio phone-ins and street gossip.

Danny Williams, a 13-yearold boy of mixed race, was reported to have been taken to an "undisclosed location" with his mother, Bobbie Ann, at the expense of the Star, a "supermarket" tabloid (so called because it is sold mainly in supermarkets) which is trying to establish whether there is a DNA match between the boy and the President.

Danny Williams has grown up being told by his mother that he is Bill Clinton's child, and that he was fathered during a paid-for sex encounter in the President's home state.

The long-standing rumours resurfaced at the weekend after the disclosure that the child had submitted a DNA sample to an Arkansas laboratory and that Star reporters were trying to establish

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

with the sample submitted by Mr Clinton during the investigation of Monica Lewinsky's semen-stained dress.

1611.

The more immediate bad news for Mr Clinton was the continued failure of his supporters in the Senate to muster a consensus around proposals either for a censure vote or for gress reconvenes tomorrow. While Democrats could be heartened by the fact that the main divisions were in the necessity and political advisability of a trial, they were preparing to return to the Capitol with the President's future as much in question as when they broke for the Christmas

If the Senate does decide to proceed. Bill Clinton would become the first president for 130 years to stand trial in the

The House of Representatives last month voted two articles of impeachment equivalent to formal charges accusing him of perjury and obstruction of justice over his affair with Ms Lewinsky, a White House trainee.

Yesterday, the White House which is preparing simultaneously for a Senate trial and for the State of the Union address - was again stressing business as usual.

Mr Clinton appeared with his wife. Hillary, to set out new proposals for tax relief on care for the elderly and chronically ill the latest in a series of spending announcements geared at once to influential political constituencies and the senators who will constitute the jury in the event of a trial.

IN BRIEF

Sierra Leone rebels attack capital ARTILLERY FIRE shook the Sierra Leone capital of

Freetown yesterday and Nigerian-led peacekeepers said they had repelled a rebel attack on the city's Hastings airport. Last week Nigeria boosted the force's numbers to between 15,000 and 19,000. The rebels are soldiers loyal to a military junta evicted from Freetown in February.

Chinese police torture priest

A priest in the underground Catholic church in China was arrested, imprisoned and tortured by police, including female agents who sexually assaulted him, according to the Vatican missionary news service. Fr Li Qinghua, 31, was arrested in November in Hebei province in northern China.

Burglar, 89, dies red-handed

AN 89-YEAR-OLD Swiss burglar collapsed and died in an apartment he had broken into, the police said yesterday. The man was probably killed by the sudden onset of an illness, they said. The body was discovered by the owner of the apartment, also an elderly man.

MILES KINGTON



Tiggy Legge-Bourke is the sort of name that takes centuries to develop TUESDAY REVIEW

Cut out and stick on your office door Dear Colleagues This Thursday I will be leaving t office at 8.00pm at the latest. Not 8.30pm, not 8.15pm, not even 01pm, but 8.00pm. This gives me a whole hour in which to get home and secure a good seat for the new series of Friends and ER. I regret any inconvenience this may cause but unfortunately it's

> New series of Friends and ER. SKY Thursday 7th January from 9pm. See it firstio v One.

RY DEJEVENT

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German right seeks to block migrants law

CERMANY'S BIGGEST opposihon party pledged yesterday to "mobilise public resistance" against government plans to naturalise over four million foreign residents.

In a dramatic demonstration of their drift to the right since September's elections, the Christian Democrats are taking their crusade into the streets. With their Bavarian allies, they intend to collect millions of signatures in defence of the 1913 citizenship law, which provides a racial definition of what it is to be German.

A new law, a compromise thrashed out by the Social Democrats and Greens, would grant automatic German citizenship to third-generation immigrants born in Germany, and ease the naturalisation process for other long-term residents. Of the 7.2 million "foreigners" living in Germany, about 4.2 million would qualify.

As matters have stood since the days of the Kaiser, German citizenship has been legally defined as a genetic attribute. The descendants of Germans settled in Russia in the time of Catherine the Great are Germans, and can "return" to Germany. Grandchildren of guest-workers" who arrived in the 1960s remain "guests", and face bureaucratic hurdles every time they renew their

By IMRE KARACS in Bonn

temporary residence permits. Naturalisation is slow and cumbersome. The recipients must surrender their original passport and citizenship. In the case of Turks, who number more than two million, they must buy themselves out of

Turkey. Under the law, which is due to be enacted by the summer, the newcomers would be allowed to have dual nationality for the first time. This, the opposition believes, will provoke envy and aggression among

The consequences could be horrific," said Wolfgang Schäuhle, Helmut Kohl's successor as CDU chairman. A hard-hitting policy paper drawn up by its Bavarian sister party goes even further "Germany's inner peace and integration are in danger," the Christian Social Union declares. The new law would provide a "hot-bed for racist incitement".

The government, and even the Free Democrats who used to be in Mr Kohl's coalition, counter that the petition is whipping up passions of the wrong kind, "It's all about mohilising prejudices," said Ottmar Schreiner, party manager of the Social Democrats.

Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, likened the foreign peril to the "threat posed to national security by the Red Army Faction", the urban terrorist group in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr Stoiber fears the new Germans will breed and attract "hundreds of thousands" of relatives from their previous homelands.

"The German people don't want that," he said. "The peo-

ple feel that the limits of our

identity as Germans are hurst-

Mr Stoiber's government in Munich has done much to protect German identity in the past. Last autumn, it "sent home" a 14-year-old thug to Turkey, even though the boy had been horn and brought up in Germany hy his Turkish parents. Bavaria has also lobhied strongly on behalf of nationalistic exile groups of Germans driven out of Eastern Europe after the Second World

The CSU policy paper, due to be published tomorrow, proposes to clamp down on immigrants even further. New arrivals would face language tests, Children aged 10 or over not conversant in German would not be admitted. Applicants would also face a test of knowledge of Germany's par-



The Tinto river bank at Huelva, Spain, yesterday after the nearby Fertiberia chemical factory spilt toxic waste water into the river and surrounding marshland

Where chars are the stars

STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE

RUSSIAN CLEANING ladies are like cats. They choose you and rule your life, not the other way round. I am not Lady Muck. I could easily vacuum my own carpets. But I have always had a charwoman in Moscow, a Hilda Ogdenskaya for the soap

opera of Russian life. When I first came to the Soviet Union in 1985, I was allocated a flat in a special foreigners' block, which came complete with a domestic servant. Nadia used to iron my shirts, make soup and dumplings for me and, when I was out, read my letters on behalf of the KGB. She was a nice woman. She was just

When it became possible to rent an apartment in the private sector, I thought I might do without a home help but it was not to be. The landlord said I could have the flat, provided I kept on Nina, who came once a week to polish the antique furniture.

I think that at first Nina, a retired opera singer who had once performed for Nikita Khrushchev, needed the money hut, as time went on. her son became a New Russian businessman and she went up in the world. She used to arrive in a chauffeurdriven car, take off her fur coat give the flat a quick flick with a duster and then plonk herself down to show me snaps from her latest holiday in Sri Lanka or Cyprus.

After Nina came Tanya, a geologist who, like many educated Russians, has been reduced to doing menial work to make ends meet. She came to my three-room home as much for space and peace as for money. Tanya lives in a communal flat, which means she shares one room with her sister, the other two rooms being occupied by separate families. When she had finished vacuuming, she would sit in the lotus position and look at my art books for hours.

Recently Tanya got a better job and passed me on to Yulia, who is the new Hilda

Ogden of Samotechny Lane, although she is too elegant to wear curlers. An engineer from an obsolete radio factory. Yulia has been with me for only a month but already she has me in hand.

"Right," she said three weeks ago. "On 25 December you can come to my son's school and hand out the prizes. You will be the special guest." I opened and closed my mouth like a goldfish. That would be Christmas Day. On the other hand, I was not really planning to do anything else so I went obediently to give the prizes at School Number Two in the town of Fryazino outside Moscow.

It was a delightful experience. Fryazino used to be closed to foreigners hecause of its defence factories. It retains a special atmosphere, as many of its inhabitants are scientists and intellectuals.

The prizes were for the best translations of English poetry into Russian. They had to be hoth accurate and lyrical. The poems included a Shakespeare sonnet, which the 16-year-olds had tackled with astonishing skill and grace. Even more awe-inspiring was Zoya Arnoldovna, the teacher. The last time she had been paid was in September. Yet, out of her own pocket, she had bought the prizes.

As luck would have it, Yulia's son Misha won first prize. I had brought little British flag badges for the runners-up and a giant silk Union Jack for the winner. Everyone laughed when Misha draped the flag round his shoulders like Superman.

On New Year's Eve, Yulia and Misha knocked on my door. "We enjoyed the prizegiving so much that we have come to wash your windows to say thank you," they announced. This was the last thing I needed, as I was up to my elbows in salmon and mayonnaise, making a Russian salad for guests who were expected any minute. But I knew it was useless to argue.

HELEN WOMACK

New Year brings carnage to French roads

A MURDEROUS New Year on By JOHN LICHFIELD the French roads has drawn attention to a depressing and puzzling statistic. The number of road deaths in France rose dramatically last year after

nine years of steady decline. In 1997 the number of people killed in road accidents in France fell below 8,000 for the

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Interest

Nothing until the Year 2000, on our

themselves on the effectiveness of new safety laws, on drink-driving in particular.

Inexplicably, road deaths leapt again in 1998, when it is estimated that 8,450 people died - the highest figure for five

Pay Nothing until

astrous New Year's Day in 1999, 46 people were killed on the roads, more than double last year's figure. Of these, 27 equivalent of an "entire school

Britain). These statistics were cessive drink and tiredness, gested the proliferation of safetracically illuminated by a dis- after New Year parties extending until dawn, are he-France. In the first 24 hours of lieved to be to blame for many of the deaths.

The causes of the sharp rise In road victims last year are were less than 25 years old-the more difficult to fathom. Experts blamed failure by police class", as Isabelle Massin, the and gendarmerie to enforce first time, causing the years (and roughly twice as junior minister in charge of speedlimits and tougher drink-authorities to congratulate many as the annual average in road safety, pointed out. Ex-

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ty equipment such as airbags, was giving people a false sense of security. Ms Massin praised one local initiative in the Bordeaux area: in future, police will close down any nightclub that has a customer killed in a drink-related road accident. Other, more optimistic, experts said that the surge in

deaths might be a statistical

reduction in the number of road victims in France for 25 years. That was also interrupted by a brief increase in road deaths in the late Eighties before the decline resumed

Meanwhile, the tragedies continue. Three people died in a four-vehicle pile-up on the A6 motorway near Fontainebleau yesterday.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Changes to 'Independent' statistics after euro launch

THE INDEPENDENT'S statistics are from today being adjusted to take account of the launch of the euro. We are also extending our coverage of international stock

In the foreign exchange-rate table (published on page 17 today) spot rates against the German mark have been replaced by a column of euro cross rates. The 11 currencies in EMU still feature in this table, even though they are now fixed sub-units of the euro, to provide an easy reference point while francs, marks and other legacy currencies continue to circulate.

On the currencies table (below), the euro replaces mark rates. The ecu, which converted into the euro on a one-for-



one basis, has also been replaced by the euro throughout the section, while all "year change" information for euro will be since its launch on 1

Repo and overnight rates set by the new European Central Bank for the eurozone replace the individual rates for the countries participating in economic and monetary union in the Interest-rate

table (page 17). The short-term money market rates listed under Germany on the interest-rate table below also apply

At the moment the British Bankers' Association euro Libor rates and the European Bankers Federation's Euribor rates are competing to establish themselves as Europe's key benchmark. As The Independent publishes Liffe euro Libor futures, we have also added the euro Libor rate to the money-market rate table.

Liffe plans to continue trading euromark and eurolira cootracts until 22 January, when they will be converted into euro Libor contracts. We will continue to publish the separate future contracts until then

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	MIKKET			
960	9400	13900			
920	9300	13700			
980	9200	12500			
840	9100	12700			
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INDICES								
Index	Clase	Chunge Ci	umge(%)	52 mk blgb !	2 wk low Y	-		
FISE 100	5879,40	-3.20	-0.05	6183.70	4599.20	2.73		
FTSE 250	4851.00	-3.70	-0.08	5970.90	4247.60	3.48		
FTSE 350	2770.80	-1.60	-0.06	2969.10	2210.40	2.84		
FTSE All Share	2673.18	-0.74	EQ.0-	2886.52	21A3.53	2.89		
F75E SmallCap	2082.80	11,90	0.58	2793.80	1834,40	88.E		
FTSE Fledgling	1192,50	6,10	0.53	1517.10	1046.20	4.37		
FTSE AIM	801.50	-0,10	-0.01	1146.90	761,30	1.26		
FTSE Eurotep 100	2804.15	60.26	2.95	3079.27	2018.15	91,50		
FTSE Eurotop 300	1214.04	31.30	2,65	1332.07	880.63	1.02		
Dow Jones	9301,93	123,33	1,34	9380.20	7400.30	1,64		
Nikkel	13415.89	-426.28	-3.08	17352.95	12787,90	1,09		
Hang Seng	9809.17	-239.41	-2.38	11926,16	6544.79	3.59		
Dax	5252.36	249.97	5.00	6217.83	3833.71	1.64		
56P 500	1242,70	13.86	1,13	1244.93	912.83	1.29		
Nasdag	2229.51	36.75	1.68	2200.63	1357.09	0.31.		
Toronto 300	6560.00	74.76	1.15	7837.70	5320.90	1.65		
Brazil Bovespa	7000,70	214.65	3.15	12339,14	4575.69	8.16		
Belgium Bel20	3645.94	131.43	3.74	3647.23	2357.78	1.79		
Amsterdam Exch	558.95	20.59	3.83	600.65	366.58	1.76		
France CAC 40	4147.50	704.84	5.20	4404.94	2809.73	1.95		
Milan MIB30	37417.00	2265.00	6.44	39170.00	24175.00	1.06		
Madrid Ibex 35	10447,80	611.20	6.21	10989.80	6869.90	1.76		
Insh Overall	5076.95	81,13	1.62	5581.70	3732.57	1.45		
5 Korea Comp	587.57	25.1 t	4.46	600.45	277,37	1.00		
Australia ASX	2832 60	19.70	0.69	289270	2286 70	3 20		

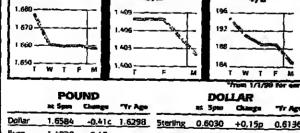
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SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
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5.53	4 30	5.10
5.51 W T F M	A 20 T W T F M	5.06 T W T E M
		, W T F M

MONEY MARKET RATES				1	BONE	YIELD:	5	
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Tr ch
UK	6.22	-1.45	5.61	-2.07		-1,96		-1.9
US	5.06	-0.75	5.09	-0.84	4.72		5.18	
Japan	0.54	-0.25	0.57	-0.17	2.17	0.23	2.96	0.4
Germany	3.22	-0.41	3.20	-0.74	3.79	-1.53	4.68	-1.2

CURRENCIES



Dollar	1.6584	-0.41c	1.6298	Sterling	0.6030	+0.15p	0.61
Euro	1.4020	-0,45c		Euro	1,1823	+1.1c	
Ven	185.06	-¥2.82	217.71	Yen	111.73	-3.77	133,4
£ ındex	99.70	0.00	104.50	5 index	103,90	0.00	109.
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15.84 GDP 115.40 3.00 112.04 Mar RPI 164.40 3.00 159.61 Jan 5.00 -0.01

SOURCE BLOOMBERG

Source: Thomas Cook

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TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6238	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.7
Austria (schillings)	18.91	Netherlands (guilders)	3.030
Belgium (francs)	55.07	New Zealand (\$)	3.020
Canada (\$)	2.4898	Norway (krone)	12.2
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7982	Portugal (escudos)	271.1
Denmark (krone)	10.20	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.062
Finland (markka)	8,2586	Singapore (5)	2.620
France (francs)	9.0355	Spain (pesetas)	228.8
Germany (marks)	2.7035	South Africa (rands)	9,417
Greece (drachma)	453.56	Sweden (krone)	13.0
Hong Kong (S)	12.50	Switzerland (francs)	2,208
ireland (punts)	1,0832	Thalland (bahts)	55.4
indian (rupees)	63.45	Turkey (lirasi)	50509
israel (shekels)	6.4360	USA (S)	1.625
Italy (lira)	2677		7,020
Japan (yen)	184.02	Rates for indication purpo	ses only
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0628		

Fresh signs of slowdown add to rate cut pressure

BY DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

PROSPECTS OF lower interest rates in both Europe and the UK increased yesterday following fresh signs of a slowdown in the German and British economies.

On the heels of the launch of the euro, a new survey brought indications of a slowdown in Germany, the powerhouse of the European economy. The European Central Bank is expected to cut interest rates again, following the co-ordinated reduction to 3 per cent in member countries last month.

Fresh evidence that the UK is close to recession also boosted hopes that the Bank of England will reduce the cost of borrowing from the current 6.25 per cent, either on Thursday or after next month's meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee.

The purchasing managers survey suggested that manufacturing industry contracted in December for the ninth consecutive month. The gloom was barely lifted by figures showing a record increase in credit card borrowing in November.

Thanks to these dim economic prospects and to its exclusion from euro-phoria, London was the only European market to fall on the first day of trading for the new currency. The FTSE100 index ended just over 3 points lower at 5,879.4, having fallen as much as 71 points earlier in the day.

Yet other European stockmarkets surged, while the euro strengthened against the pound and the dollar, as investors bought euro assets following the single currency's launch. Shares in Paris jumped nearly 5 per cent, and in Frankfurt 6 per cent. Shares in the biggest companies such as France Tele-



Bond traders at Nomura in the City, at work with the euro for the first time yesterday

DaimlerChrysler made the biggest gains as institutional investors started to increase their holdings in the euro zone.

The pound closed at 71.09p to the euro, slightly weaker than the 70.2 pence at which it opened. The foreign exchange markets were relatively quiet as dealers tentatively tried out the results of the conversion.

Business surveys in both the com, Deutsche Telekom and UK and Germany yesterday al, said it was not a happy start Barneg predicted: "Rates will fall put, orders and employment all Rough ride for pound, page 15

pointed to economic slowdown. In Britain the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) reported the second biggest fall in output in the sur-

vey's seven-year history. One ray of light came in a slower fall in new orders than the previous month, hinting that the recession in manufacturing might be stabilising. But, Peter Thomson, CIPS director gener- UK economist at Salomon Smith

to the year. "We have had some relief in lower interest rates, but another cut is essential." Separate figures yesterday

showed a record rise of £559m in credit card borrowing, with total new consumer credit at £1.3bn. The robust rise suggested consumer spending is still growing at a healthy pace.

Even so, Michael Saunders.

to 5 per cent within the next few months." Analysts are divided over whether the next move will come this week, following the half point reduction to 6.25 per cent on 10 December.

Analysts also think a further fall in euro interest rates is on the cards if Germany shows more survey showed a sharp drop in to cut rates again so soon. manufacturing activity, with out-

down in December, Unemployment figures for Germany later this week could show the total climbing back above four million. If so, there will be additional pressure on Europe's central bankers to boost the economy to raise support for the euro. The ECB council is oext due to meet signs of stumbling. Yesterday's on 21 January, but it is unlikely

Outlook, page 13

Vodafone poised to bid for US rival

VODAFONE IS considering BY PETER THAL LARSEN entering the bidding for its US rival Air Touch in a move which group almost double in size.

AirTouch confirmed on Sunday night that it is in talks with Bell Atlantic, the largest local phone company in the US, about a takeover which would probably value the US mobile operator at \$45bn (£27bn).

However Vodasone, which

and briefly held talks with it last could see the mobile phone year is poised to enter the fray. The operator is interested in Air Touch's international assets, but less keen to enter the US market. In Europe, AirTouch

complements Vodafone as the companies were members of rival consortia when mobile phone licences were awarded. "It would be a marriage made has long been seen as an ideal in heaven," said analyst Jim merger partner for AirTouch McCafferty of SG Securities.

fone and Bell Atlantic carve up AirTouch between them. Bell could combine Air Touch's West Coast business with its own mobile operations to create a national operator. Vocafone would take over AirTouch's international businesses.

Vodafone is thought to have been surprised by reports of an AirTouch/Bell deal. The acquisitive US operator is still obtaining regulatory approval for its \$53bn acquisition of GTE, its

One possibility is that Voda-ne and Bell Atlantic carve up Chris Gent, Vodafone's chief executive, is currently in Australia watching the fifth Ashes Test. Vodafone sponsors the England team. "We do not comment on market rumour and speculation," a spokesman for Vodafone said last night.

Vodafone's bargaining position will be helped by its strong stock market performance over the past year, during which its shares more than doubled in value, leaving it in a strong

shares jumped 73p to 1,049p, valuing the company at £32bn. as it confirmed that it had widened its lead over its rivals in the last quarter of last year.

In the final three months of 1998 it signed up 933,000 new customers in the UK. Explosive growth of its pay-as-you-go service, which added 755,000 new customers, accounted for most of the rise.

Cellnet maintained its num-

position to issue shares as part ber two ranking with 658,000 of any deal. Yesterday Vodafone new users, 455,000 of which were pre-paid customers. Orange added 512,000 customers, while One2Ooe signed up 493,000.

Analysts welcomed the growth, but questioned how profitable the oew customers would be. "The question is to what extent the operators can gravitate these customers on to fixed contracts in the future." said Chris Godsmark, an analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite.

Fall in house prices adds to fears of market slide

FEARS OF a downward slide in BY ANDREW VERITY the housing market were reinforced yesterday by fresh data showing a fall in house prices for a second successive month.

The average house price fell in December from £73,231 to £73,124 - 0.1 per cent - according to the Halifax monthly house price index. This followed a November fall of 0.7 per cent. House price inflation has

reached its lowest level since 1997, with prices rising by just 4.5 per cent in the year to December: Last summer prices were rising by 7 per cent.

The fall led economists to

predict a "gently simmering" market over 1999. Prices are expected to slip in the first half but rebound in the second said this was due to existing

when buyers start to feel the benefit of lower interest rates. Kieran Barr, a housing specialist at Deutsche Bank, said-"The housing market almost dried up at the end of last year

because of deteriorating international conditions and lower consumer confidence. "Although the consumer is not feeling under the cosh, he's still reading about recession. And we expect to see unemployment go up. What will be

the first quarter of this year." The price fall came despite a 2.5 per cent rise in mortgage lending in November. Lenders

key is how things shape up in

homeowners switching to neaper mortgage deals.

Halifax said there was still an upward trend in house prices over the year and housing was still at historically affordable levels compared to earnings. Halifax forecasts a 4 per cent rise in prices in 1999.

Fenula Early, economist at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "If you look at the overall economic environment there is caution in the market, but I wouldn't say [the December price fall) is a sign of a

Economists are now predicting that base rates could fall to 4.5 per cent this year, allowing variable mortgage rates to fall to 5.5 per cent.

Goldsmiths fuels rumours with glum trading report

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellery retailer, issued a downbeat Christmas trading statement yesterday amid speculation that the company will be taken private in the next two weeks. Reporting sales that were

"disappointing and below expectations" for the four weeks to 2 January, Jurek Piasecki, Goldsmiths' chairman and chief executive, declined to comment on a possible management buyout. This followed a statement just before Christmas saving Goldsmiths is in preliminary talks with a potential bidder.

However, it is understood that the deal is likely to be finalised within a fortnight, led by Mr Piasecki and backed by Alchemy, the venture capital

BY NIGEL COPE

group. It is expected to be pitched at about 165p a share, valuing the company at around £40m. Goldsmiths shares fell 15p to 154p yesterday.

Goldsmiths, which has 154 outlets, yesterday reported a 2.6 per cent fall in like-for-like sales in the four weeks to 2 January. Mid-priced jewellery in the £400 to £1500 price bracket sold well. but the top and bottom ends were disappointing.

Mr Piasecki said: "I think consumers are nervous and I hope the Monetary Policy Committee knocks down interest rates again when it meets this week." The company is thought to

have decided that it no longer needs the stock market and that the costs of retaining its listing are no longer worthwhile. Retailing is one of several sectors where venture capital companies are circling due to low share prices. Others include engineering and textiles.

Yesterday, a study by Close Brothers Corporate Finance showed a sharp rise in the number of quoted companies going private and predicted a doubling of the number in 1999.

Last year 25 companies were taken private, of which 18 were valued at less than £50m. Close Bros said the trend would continue as smaller companies grow frustrated at UK fund managers' aversion to them.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS were unimpressed by the euro's launch. Other European markets moved ahead sharply, but Footsie closed off 3.2 points at

5,879.4p. At one time it was up 34.3. BP Amoco, the new oil giant and Footsie's biggest constituent, marked its debut with a 21.5p gain to 924.5p in busy trading. Telecom shares buzzed again after good festive season mobile phone sales. Orange, up 13.7 per cent to 794.5p, led the charge with Vodalone rising 7.5 per cent to 1,049p, a peak. Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

THE DOW rose 168 points to stand within 25 points of its alltime high of 9,374.3 as investors welcomed the new year with a rally, before falling back slightly to 9,244.74, up 65, in early afternoon. Analysis attributed the movements to hopes of large

and subsequent profit taking. The Nasdaq Composite was up 36.82 points, or 1.68 per cent, at 2,229.51, while the broader S&P 500 index was up 13.39 points at 1,242.57.

flows of cash into motual funds

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI tumbled over 3 per cent in a shortened first day of trading for 1999 to end at 13,415.89 amid concerns that the yen's stronger tendency against the dollar would hurt Japan's ailing

Traders said worries about volatility in the currency markets as the euro began to trade, and fears that the yen may firm further against the dollar battered stock market sentiment. There are worries that the yen will rise further against the dollar," said one analyst.

HONG KONG

STOCKS CLOSED sharply lower, with the Hang Seng index ending 2.38 per cent off at 9,809.2, amid worries about the fall in Tokyo and the strength of yen.

"Volatility is high and

turnover low and we expect this to continue for the next few days," said Gordon Leung at Cresvale Far East. Brokers said there was little institutional action because funds did not want to increase dollar-linked positions before seeing the trend io the euro.

FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S blue-chip Xetra Dax stormed ahead as euro euphoria and telecom sector bulls took the index to a four-month high. A strong Wall Street opening huoyed the market a further percentage point in the late afternoon.

The electronically traded Dax closed up 5.67 per cent at 5,290.4, while the floor Dax rose 5 per cent to 5,252.4.

Deutsche Telekon soared 15.6 per ceot to reach a record high of 32.43 euros in the heaviest trade among blue chips.

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PENDENT nuary 1999



Tom Pilston December, Unemploy ires for Germany later s could show the total back above four million

e will be additional pres-1 Europe's central to boost the economy apport for the euro. The neil is next due to mea mary, but it is unlikely

es again se soon. Outlook, page 13 ide for pound, page la

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he stock market and costs of retaining its list no longer worthwhile g is one of a meral sec-To venture capital com tre circling due to los rices. Other: -ciude ring and textiles rday a study by Close S Corporate France a shorp rise in the num noted companies some and predicted a dec the number in this year 25companies were rivate of which 18 men it less than Com Close id the trend would com s smaller companie ustrateo at UK ittle

ers' aversion to their

NKFURT plue-cnip Xe'ra na ad as euro euphorid sector buils took the ir-morth high A greet opening bushed further percentage ate aftercoon onically traced pay 7.per cent at 5.2001

Telekon soared 12.0 each a record high the heavier, wait

ar Day rose o per teat

THE LIFFE independent BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE the collapse of Griffin Trading

dent" it could give a 50 per cent payout to all the traders hit by the scandal.

Liffe said the payouts would come in the next few days in a The Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, said bid to get up to 100 "locals" - independent dealers who risk John Parklost £6.25m on a Geryesterday that after inspecting their own money - back into man hunds futures contract. the Griffin books it was "confi-

business. It is understood that the losses by the dealers - who account for around 10 per cent ity-range from £15,000 to £1m.

fields industrial specialities

chief executive and the driving

restructuring programme, con-

ceded that the company had

experienced a "rumbustious"

start to the new year and said

division in Warrington.

of the exchange's locals capac-Griffin, the London-based unit of a well-known Chicago trading house, collapsed two weeks ago after rogue trader

The FSA's move came as Tullett & Tokyo, the broker used by Mr Park for his deals, said that it could take legal action against Griffin and the Koreanborn trader

Tullett & Tokyo said that it was set to lose up to DM1.2m (£430,000) as a result of Mr

Miller Smith's new year shocker

IF Charles Miller Smith's New Year resolution was to stop giving the stock market nasty surprises, then he has already broken it. Just four days into 1999 and ICI has come up with a belter, announcing the collapse of another important element in its disposal programme and abandoning plans for a joint venture with DuPont in Pakistan

In an effort to sugar the pill, the group has pledged to maintain the fividend for 1998 and taken the axe to a further 1,000 jobs. The £70m in savings generated by the latest job cuts will go some way towards paying the interest charges on the £4.4bn of debt ICI is still groaning under following the purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals busi-

But by any yardstick, Mr Miller Smith's grand strategy of dumping bulk chemicals and reinventing ICI as a manufacturer of scents and starches, looks to be in tatters.

The chemical reaction to the latest piece of bad news from 9, Millbank was predictable. The shares were marked down 6 per cent. At this rate, the next 12 months could turn out every bit the annus horribilis than 1998 proved to be.

Since their peak in May last year

on his promises.

OUTLOOK

of 1244p, ICI shares have fallen by

60 per cent. ICI is now worth just a

fifth of the value of Zeneca, the ju-

nior partner at the time of demerg-

er six year ago. Mr Miller Smith calls

self, it begins to look perilous. ICI as

a whole is now worth less than it paid

for Unilever's speciality chemicals

to DuPont and NL shows that ICI

cannot refinance this purchase price

through disposal of the group's un-

wanted parts. While ICI dusts off

plans for a flotation of the Tioxide

business, the world is left wonder-

The collapse of the Tioxide sale

It is a moot point as to whether ICI would have been better off doing nothing, although it is hard to see how owning a collection of commodity chemicals businesses at the bottom of the cycle would now put it in a stronger position.

But that should not obscure the disaster that has overtaken Mr switch of direction. In these circumstances it is also a moot point as to whether a different management could now manage the situation any better Mr Miller Smith must nonetheless be wondering if his position is as safe as ICT's dividend

ICT's start to the year "rumbustious". Others might regard it as calamitous while for the ICI chief executive him-Euro destiny

HOW QUICKLY will Britain become part of Euroland? Much as we might ike to think the decision is still ours to make, this may not in the end be the case. The possibility of a de facto introduction of the euro, regardless of what the British people and its politicians want, remains high.

Many big British companies take the view that sterling is already

account in euros (although the pri- if paid in euros. mary accounting currency will have to remain the pound), others propose to invoice suppliers in euros, while a few even plan to offer workers the

right to receive their pay in euros. The speed with which the British economy de facto becomes part of the eurozone, without formally joining it, will largely depend on this lat-Miller Smith's grand strategic terphenomenon. If the purchasing base of the country turns euro, then sterling too would soon start to disappear. Retailers would very quickhave to accept euros as well as pounds and they too, would as a consequence eventually start paying their workers in euros.

Plainly this is not going to happen overnight. Since the Revenue will continue to tax in pounds, not many companies will think it worth their while to go this route, initially at least - the administrative hassle would be too great. However, pressure from both sides of industry for payment in euros is likely to mount if the pound hecomes highly volatile against the new currency. Employers would find it convenient as well as profitable to foist the exchange risk of the payroll on to their employees, while employees might be

All this must for the time being remain in the realm of speculation. What looks rather more certain is that prices and the cost of money will quite quickly homogenise to Euroland levels. The establishment of the single currency adds a previously unattainable degree of pricing transparency across the eurozone, and as such is the final milestone on route to a fully integrated single European market place. As crossborder trade and competition picks up, prices should in theory fall towards the lowest denominator.

Big business will no doubt fight tooth and nail to make the process work the other way round - that is, to have prices rise towards the highest denominator - but either way, Britain cannot remain immune to what happens. The euro will gal-vanise British markets and industry as much as it will those of Euroland. In this respect, Britain will find it impossible to remain an island. The City's key position in financial markets, including for the time being, the euro markets, pushes us further still towards effective integration.

So it certainly won't be possible to avoid the effect of the euro, how-

a part of it, and longer term economic inevitability might force us

into it in any case. In the short term, it seems clear that there is nothing to stop a further fall in European interest rates. The new currency seems destined rapidly to establish itself as a strong and powerful one, prices are barely rising at all in many parts of Euroland, unemployment remains high and growth sluggish.

Wim Duisenberg will surely resist at this month's meeting of the ECB for fear of jumping the gun, but a further cut in rates must follow soon after. That in turn will put pressure on our own monetary policy committee for more action. Nothing is certain, but there is a fair possibili ty that the British economy will converge with that of Euroland much more rapidly than generally thought.

Liffe threatening

ANY CREDIBLE financial centre has to have a big futures market, and though a great deal of derivatives activity these days is customised and over the counter, a vibrant futures exchange is an absolute necessity.

ing when Mr Miller Smith will deliver largely an irrelevance. Some plan to made to feel better off and securer ever much we might wish not to be Liffe used so effortlessly to occupy this position, that it is small wonder it became complacent.

First it was caught napping by Frankfurt's low cost screen dealing systems. Now it has suffered another blow - the collapse of Griffin Trad-

ing. This has highlighted quite serious regulatory failings.
Strictly speaking this is not Liffe's fault, as it is not responsible for regulating Griffin, nor is this a particularly significant collapse in the scale of things. "Only" £6.25m seems to be at risk as a result of the activities of John Ho (Ho) Park, and no more than 100 "locals", or traders, have been hit by Griffin's failure adequately to ring fence their money from Mr Park's recklessness.

Nonetheless, the mud is sticking. First Liffe is accused of charging far too much. Now it is accused of failing to safeguard its traders' money. In most rival futures exchanges, it would apparently be quite illegal to "pool" traders' interests in the way that seems to have happened at Griffin. Elsewhere, strict segregation is the order of the day, as it is in nearly all transactions involving money. For Brian Williamson, Liffe's new chairman, the Griffin débacle could hardly have come at a worse time.



Sir John Browne (left), BP Amoco chief executive, with Larry Fullet, co-chairman, outside Britannic House in London yesterday John Voos

More job cuts forecast as BP Amoco surges

BP AMOCO shares surged yesterday as Britain's biggest company began trading with a warning that job losses would exceed the 6,000 initially

In heavy trading, shares in the new oil giant rose by 3 per cent to 928p on the first day of dealings, valuing the company at around £90bn.

This makes BP Amoco the biggest company by market capitalisation in the FTSE100 index of leading shares and the world's third biggest oil major behind Exxon-Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell.

BP Amoco was by far the most actively traded stock in London with more than 70 million shares changing hands as fund managers raised their welghtings.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

A spokesman said that job losses would be higher than the 6,000 forecast when the merger was unveiled last But he stressed that the

hulk of the additional redundancies would be in the US. Of the 6,000 job losses so far announced, about 1,000 will be in the UK. BP Amoco has pledged to

reduce its cost base by 30 per cent, which will help yield savings of \$2bn a year by the end But analysts believe the eventual figure will be much

bigger than that, perhaps as high as \$3.5bn. The merger cleared its final Federal Trade Commission gave the deal the go-ahead with only minor conditions.

BP Amoco is having to dispose of 134 petrol stations in the US - less than 1 per cent of the 16,000 it owns - and nine oil product storage terminals in return for regulatory approval.

BP Amoco's chief executive will be Sir John Browne, the former chief executive of BP, while Larry Fuller of Amoco will be co-chairman alongside BP's Peter Sutherland until his

retirement in 2000. The enlarged group will start life with combined revenues of \$108bn, some 100,000 employees, reserves of 14.8 hillion barrels of oil and gas and daily production of about hurdle last week after the US 3 million barrels.

News Analysis: Chemical giant's £600m sale is blocked

Double blow sends ICI shares crashing

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ICI SUFFERED a double setback yesterday as US regulators blocked the £600m sale of its worldwide Tioxide business, and another 500 jobs were shed from the group's UK chemicals

operations. The collapse of the sale of ICI's Tioxide division to the US companies, DuPont and NL Industries, will further hamper the group's attempts to reduce its debts. These have ballooned following the £4.9bn purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals division in 1997, and stood

at £4.4bn last October. Shares in ICI reacted badly to the latest bout of bad news. falling by 6 per cent to 492p and wiping £200m from the company's value. ICI shares are now 60 per cent below their peak of a financial buyer, or flotation, last May following a string of profit warnings and failed dis-

Meanwhile, the credit ratings agency, Standard & Poor's, revised its outlook for ICI from stable to negative.
ICI said it had scrapped the

sale of its Tioxide husiness in the US to DuPont and the sale of its Tioxide businesses outside North America to NL Industries after failing to get approval for the two deals from R Grace after the US regulator the collapse in the share price

are set to receive a payout

equal to half the positions they

had with the fallen futures bro-

ker within the next few days.

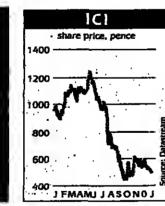


able terms

ICI will now consider three alternatives for Tioxide - sale to another trade buyer, sale to which was the original plan

DuPont about setting up a plant to make pure terephthalic acid in Pakistan.

ciality chemicals business to W



Miller Smith: strategy is "on track and delivering"

the US Federal Trade Com-mission (FTC) under accept-acceptable terms.

In total ICI is shedding 1,000 jobs, half of which will be in its US paints division. The 500 UK job losses will fall mainly on ICI's halochemicals division in Runcorn, Cheshire, which makes chlorine, caustic soda Separately, ICI said it had called off discussions with and dry cleaning fluids. About 120 jobs will be shed at the Cros-

Liffe traders set for Griffin payout

This is the second time the FTC has blocked an ICI disposal. In October last year ICI was forced to call off the \$455m (£275m) sale of its Crosfield spethat the group strategy of shed-ding its bulk chemicals activities and moving into less cyclical specialities chemicals, such as starches and flavourings, was paying off. Shrugging off suggestions that his position as chief exec-

utive might now be vulnerable Mr Miller Smith said: "The strategic direction is on course on track and delivering."

He said that the disposal programme had been a success. with gross proceeds of £3.5bn since May 1997, more than £1bn of the sum having occurred in 1998. ICI had successfully disposed of more than 40 businesses, while only three

deals had "cratered", he said. In an attempt to ease stock market nerves, ICI said it intended to maintain the dividend for the year ended 31 December at 32p a share and forecast profits before exceptional items of at least £315m, compared with analysts' estimates ranging from £295m to

Charles Miller Smith, ICI's ICI will take a £120m excepforce behind its ambitious tional charge to cover the redundancy programme, but it expects to generate cost savings of £70m a year with payback in under two years. Outlook, this page

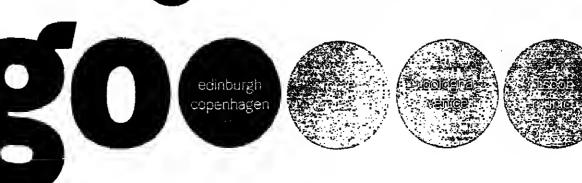
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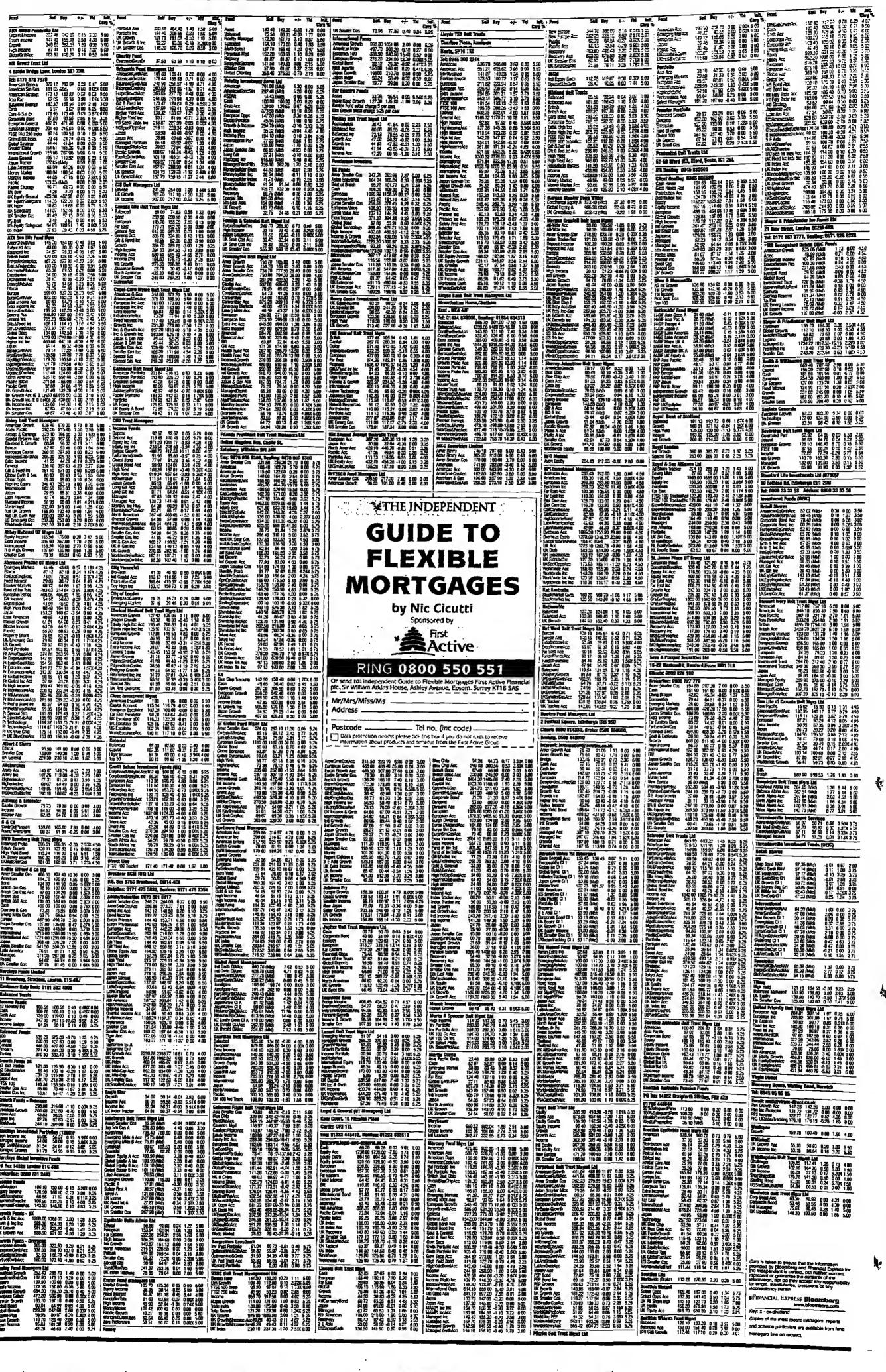
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NDENT 1999

The UK will suffer from the Government's failure to be decisive over the euro, writes Vincent Cable | Rebels

Sterling is in for a bumpy ride

THE LABOUR Government has rightly emphasised the importance of financial stability. An operationally independent Bank of England and explicit fiscal stability rules are proof of good

The main anomaly is a fluctuating exchange rate whose appreciation has already damaged manufacturing industry. The formation of economic and monetary union without British participation leaves sterling exposed to a period of uncertainty and instability.

The Chancellor Gordon Brown wants sterling to be stable and competitive. In practice it has been neither. Even after a decline in the DM rate from the March peak of DM3.10 to DM2.80, the effective rate —taking into account relative inflation and exchange rates of competitors --- is still around 10 per cent higher than when the Government took office, according to the OECD. The price competitiveness of exports and import substitutes has declined across the

Because the consequent loss in orders takes time to feed through into output, investment and jobs, last year's strong pound will continue to be felt in manufacturing recession. On the Government's own figures, export volume growth will fall from 8.5 per cent in 1997 to 3.25 per cent in 1998 and 3 per cent in 1999. Most of this decline is attributable to sterling apprecia-

What of the future? The Govermment expects an orderly de- ty is that sterling could become valuation sufficient to counter a refuge for nervous Euroland recession in manufacturing but investors if there is any loss of

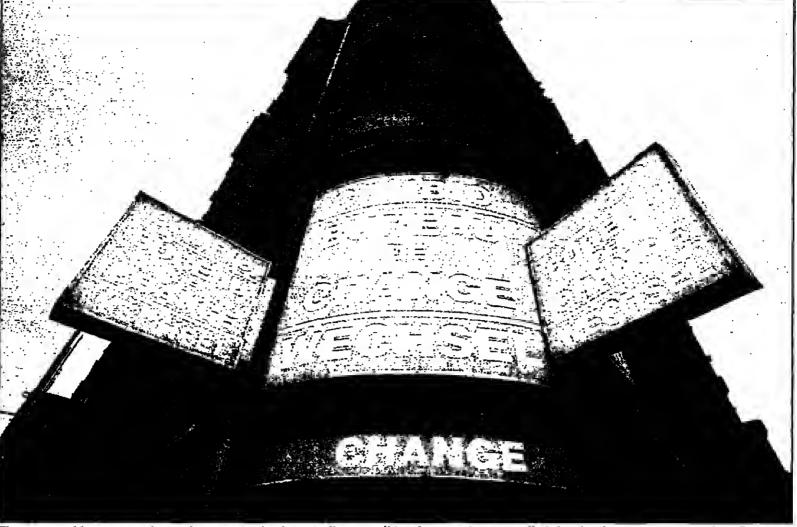
not so large as to jeopardise the inflation target. Interest rate differentials between the UK and Euro zone should close and this should pull sterling down to equalise the return on assets.

These are, however, not normal times. The launch of the euro is a seismic event in economic terms. One of the few areas of consensus among forecasters is that there will be increased volatility for currencies such as sterling, which are outside Euroland but heavily influenced by it. Volatility mat-ters increasingly because, as the euro is more widely used in the UK for business purposes, exposure to foreign exchange risk

Continued uncertainty over British intentions is inherently destabilising. Another reason for expecting volatility is that the rest of the world is only peripherally important for Euroland economic managers. Most trade is internal.

The exchange rate will become, as it already is for the US. a residual factor. The Federal Reserve takes little account of the dollar-yen and dollar-DM rate in setting policy and the European Central Bank (ECB) will behave in the same way. The world economy will resemble a tropical mud bath in which two large hippos wallow around, crushing smaller animals, like the British, caught in the middle.

In addition to general volatility there is the risk that the euro will cause a major exchange rate shock to sterling. One possibili-



The euro could cause a major exchange rate shock to sterling, possibly a large and uncontrolled devaluation

Andrew Buurman

confidence in the early years of the euro against other currenwould, in themselves, reduce the euro. This seems unlikely, at cies including sterling. speculative arbitrage. present, but, if it happened, the Devaluation against the euro cost of a 'safe haven' premium would have competitive advan-

tages. But it would present two

damage from appreciation to exproblems. Imported inflation change rate sensitive UK firms. could undermine price stability. It is more likely that the Deep devaluation could also shock would be a large unconcreate a confrontation with Eutrolled devaluation. Two factors roland over "unfair competimay make the euro exceptiontion" and the risk of trade ally strong, relative to sterling. In one plausible scenario, there Sterling is due for a bumpy is a combination of strict monride, Even if the Government etary policy administered hy

tries to minimise uncertainty by signalling a clear intention to join the ECB and looser fiscal policy administered by left-wing EMU soon after the next general governments in France, Gerelection, there is a potentially awkward transition. The Gov-Comparable circumstances in ernment has studiously avoided the US in the 1980s produced spelling out how it will manage record highs for the dollar. the transition from a freely float-Another influence in the same diing to an irrevocably fixed exrection is the potentially buge change rate regime. One portfolio shift in reserve suspects it doesn't really know. holdings. Major foreign reserve

It would help if the Treasury and the Bank of England set explicit monetary and fiscal convergence targets. Smaller interest and inflation differentials

The bigger issues concern the timing and rate of entry into EMU. The logic of the Government's position, at present, is that the entry rate will be determined by the timing. The rate prevailing in the markets after a successful referendum will be a likely reference point for negotiations with Euroland on an entry rate and date.

This assumes that the Government controls its present bout of suicidal infighting, gets comfortably re-elected, then, in the Nirvana of rapid and smooth decision-making promised for after the next election, sorts out the technical entry problems; and also wins a referendum.

An awful lot is being left to chance, not least the fact that the prevailing exchange rate, then, could be inappropriate, as it was when we joined the ERM. It would surely be more sen-

sible to address now the issue of what could be a sustainable

long-term exchange rate. There is no objectively "correct" rate. There are different views and methodologies. But some informed estimates are emerging. Goldman Sachs in October argued for a rate of DM2.50 to 2.60.

Williamson's work on a longterm equilibrium suggested a lower rate of DM 235 to 2.40. The Government should initiate a debate on a plausible consensus range. It could follow the model of the minimum wage where it skillfully used a political device - the Low Pay Commission to achieve an economically sen-

Whatever recommendation emerged would influence market expectations and also help to persuade Euroland governments that the proposed British entry rate has a basis in economic fundamentals, not opportunism or pure chance.

sible answer

If the logic of entry starts with an appropriate exchange rate, a window of opportunity may well open before the next general

election. The euro-sterling rate will at some point approach the desired level. If overall convergence was close, this would be the time to lock sterling into a stable exchange rate regime. There would be the additional merit of pre-empting the Maastricht Treaty requirement that Britain should demonstrate a period of exchange rate stability be fore EMU entry.

The main awkwardness is political. The Prime Minister has ruled out EMU entry before the next election. The Chancellor has ruled out joining a re-constituted ERM as an intermediate step. One of them, almost certainly the Chancellor, will have to eat his words. But that is a small price to pay for a stable and competitive exchange rate and a smoother trajectory to EMU entry.

Vincent Cable is the Liberal Democrat finance spokesman and a member of the Treasury Select Committee

raise pressure on Tay **Homes**

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

PRESSURE WAS mounting on Tay Homes last night after a leading investor urged the management to take speedy action to revive the housebuilder's flagging share price and a rebel shareholder called a meeting to oust the board.

Foreign & Colonial, Tay's fourth-largest investor with a 7 per cent stake, said it had issued an ultimatum to the Leeds-based company after losing patience with the poor performance of its stock.

F&C's move came as Sunley Group, the small property company masterminding a shareholder revolt, confirmed that it had called an emergency meeting to oust the board.

Tay shares have fallen from 142.5p in March to 107.5p yesterday as the company was hit hard by the economic slowdown in the North, David Manning, F&C's head of UK equities, said the current board, led by chief executive John Swanson, had six months to turn round the company's fortunes. "We have put Tay under warning to produce some results. We want to see reasonably swift action in the first half of the year," be said.

However, Mr Manning said the fund manager would not support Sunley's call to reolace Mr Swanson, chairman Norman Stubbs and two other directors with Sunley's nominees. The privately owned group bas nominated Peter Hedges, a former executive with construction group Taylor Woodrow, as chairman and Supley's chief executive, Richard Tice, as chief executive. Mr Manning said Sun-ley's attempt to win four seats on the board on the back of its 10 per cent holding was an attempt to take over the compa-

ny without paying a premium. Mr Tice said Phillips & Drew, Tay's second-largest sbarebolder with a 15 per cent stake, would vote in favour of Sunley's proposals at the meeting to be held in February. He said the new board would slasb costs and ready the company - which last year completed 1,500 houses, mainly in northern England - for merger with a rival.

Mr Swanson said the Tay board was pursuing a similar strategy by winding down its operations in the North-west to focus on the rest of the country. He added that he was confident that the current management would win the votes of the majority of shareholders at the

IN BRIEF

'Roque' directors rise by one-third THE NUMBER of "rogue" irectors disqualified as unfit no run a public company rose by more than a third in the third quarter of last year, the Government announced

yesterday.

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terday.

Kim Howells, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry, issued the figures as he hailed the success of a "Defiant Directors Hotline" set up by the DTI a year ago to tackle rogue directors and bankrupts who continue to operate in the face of court bans. The 1,200 calls received by the Insolvency Service have pushed the number of allegations of law breaking up by 40 per cent over the previous year. The service is considering prosecutions in over 100 cases. The Hotline

Red Star sold RED STAR Parcels, the lossmaking division of British Rail that was sold for £1 three years ago, has been

bought by Lynx Express.

number is 0845 601 3546.

The terms of the transaction were not revealed but the deal is likely to have made a small fortune for the management, led by John Holmes, who were part of a consortium that bought Red Star in March 1995. The other investors were BZW and TSB. Red Star was losing about £10m a year when it was sold but is now understood to be breaking even. The deal that will make Lynx the UK's largest independent parcels group with 4,000 vehicles, 3,000 employees and annual sales of £170m.

Bernard shake-up BERNARD MATTHEWS, the food supplier, yesterday

announced an internal shake-up designed to simplify its structure. The company is transferring its food operation to a whollyowned subsidiary, Bernard Matthews Foods. The company's intellectual property rights and financing operations will stay within the quoted parent company, Bernard Matthews plc.

County Hotels is £120m target for Regal

REGAL HOTELS, the three-star hotel group that abandoned plans to go private late last year, yesterday confirmed that it is in talks to huy privately controlled County Hotels for about

County Hotels is one of Britain's largest privately held hotel chains, with a portfolio

BY NIGEL COPE

many and Italy.

that includes 25 properties including Burnham Beeches, the occasional residence of the England football team. Most of the hotels are in the three-star category and fit well geographically with Regal's chain. County Hotels, a 191m man-

holders, such as China, Japan,

Singapore and Taiwan, and pri-

vate funds, will demand euros as

a reserve currency pushing up

for sterling would be further

trolled by a venture capital consortium led by Duke Street Capital, the private equity firm which had reportedly boped to float the husiness last year.

Regal, based in Newbury, Berkshire, has been upgrading its portfolio of 91 hotels. It has

agement buyout from Queens a three-year programme to Moat Houses in 1997, is conspend £80m refurbishing its existing chain under the Corus brand name. It bought the White Hart chain from Forte in 1996 and Country Clubs the following year.

Also in 1997 it sold 20 per cent of its equity to Regent Corporation for £40m, and used part

Soros firm

buys £12m

of the cash to fund the purchase of a 49 per cent stake in the Plaza Hotel near London's Hyde Park, where it has the management contract. The rest was spent on refurbishment. It also sold 14 botels last year.

Regal said yesterday that any acquisition would be made through a joint venture com-

Regal says the three-star sector accounts for two-thirds of the market but suffers from a lack of branding. It focuses on

hotels with around 60 rooms aimed at husiness travellers. Regal shares closed un-

Three UK companies snap up German firms

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

THREE SEPARATE UK companies announced the acquisition of family businesses in Germany yesterday. The deals are a result of the

decision by Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister, to withdraw the concession allowing family businesses to pay only half the 50 per cent gains tax on disposals up to DM30m with effect from the end of 1998. In all three cases existing management will stay on with

the new owners. Berisford International, the former commodities business that was reborn as a supplier of equipment to the food industry and owner of the Magnet kitchens brand, has bought Convotherm Elektrogerate, a privately-owned business making

commercial ovens.

GLASGOW RANGERS football

club has joined forces with Mir-

ror Group to set up a television

joint venture, the Scottish

League leaders announced yes-

The company, which will be

based at Ibrox, will provide

match-day television at Ibrox,

organise screening of away

matches, re-launch Rangers'

web-sites and develop electronic

commerce opportunities.

terday.



rules on Capital Gains Tax

1998 profits but is expected to be around £13m in cash. The business manufactures ovens for supermarkets to meet the growing demand for hot, prepared

Polypipe, a specialist manu-The price is dependent on paying 19m in cash for Pagette, ered 13.5p to 285p yesterday.

Mirror to run Rangers TV

By PETER THAL LARSEN

with several broadcasters about

developing a Rangers Club TV

show. The venture follows soon

after Mirror Group's Live TV

agreed last year to supply a local

TV fanzine for Heart of Mid-

lothian - Rangers' Edinburgh

"As the rights become avail-

to exploit webcasting, Inter-

net, radio and e-business op-

which manufactures plastic toi-let seats and WC cisterns Pagette will become part of Polypipe's bathroom and kitchen products division.

Lavendon Group, which hires out powered ladders and gantries, is paying £6.1m in cash for Albert Fuerg, a family-owned firm in the same line of business. The price includes £3.6m of debt and will be earnings enhancing in 1999 before amorti-

sation of goodwill, David Shipman, Lavendon's managing director, said yesterday. The acquisition will take Lavendon into southern Germany and extend its business in the east.

Lavendon also reported a 60 per cent jump in turnover to £14.65m and a 53 per cent rise in profits to £2.36m in the six months to the end of June 1998. The shares, which halved in the facturer of plastic products, is shake-out last summer, recov-

portunities," Mirror Group said.

sisted the company had not re-

ceived any firm takeover offers

that a number of private equity

providers had approached Mir-

ror Group with a view to taking

to close at 159.5p.

from venture capital groups.

Meanwhile, a spokesman in-

Press reports had suggested

stake in Greycoat

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

GEORGE SOROS, the speculator, yesterday moved closer to huying a large part of the City of London after one of his companies spent £12m on a stake in the developer Greycoat. Delancey Estates, a proper

ty group controlled by Mr Soros's Qoantum Realty Interfunding, became Grey-coat's second-largest shareholder after buying a 7.1 per cent stake in an end-of-year swoop. City analysts said the pur chase could herald a hid for Greycoat, whose shares have been languishing well below its 220p net asset value. The

shares closed up 5p at 177p. Greycoat is a leading player in the Square Mile office market with several high-profile developments. The company is part of the consortium that bought the International Financial Centre (formerly NatWest Tower) for £226m in July.

Delancey, where John Rit-blat, the chairman of British Land, and his son James have a 30 per cent stake, is under stood to have bought over 7 million shares at 168p per share from Bryan Myerson and Julian Treger. Their UK Active Value Fund has been trying to offload its bolding after failing to force a merger between Greycoat and Moorfield Estates.

the company, whose interests in-Mr Soros's move comes only clude the Mirror, Sunday Peoable, the joint venture will start ple and Birmingham Post, weeks after Greycoat was reprivate. Mirror shares rose 10p ported to have received a tentative approach from Wates City.

HSBC (X) Midland Bank

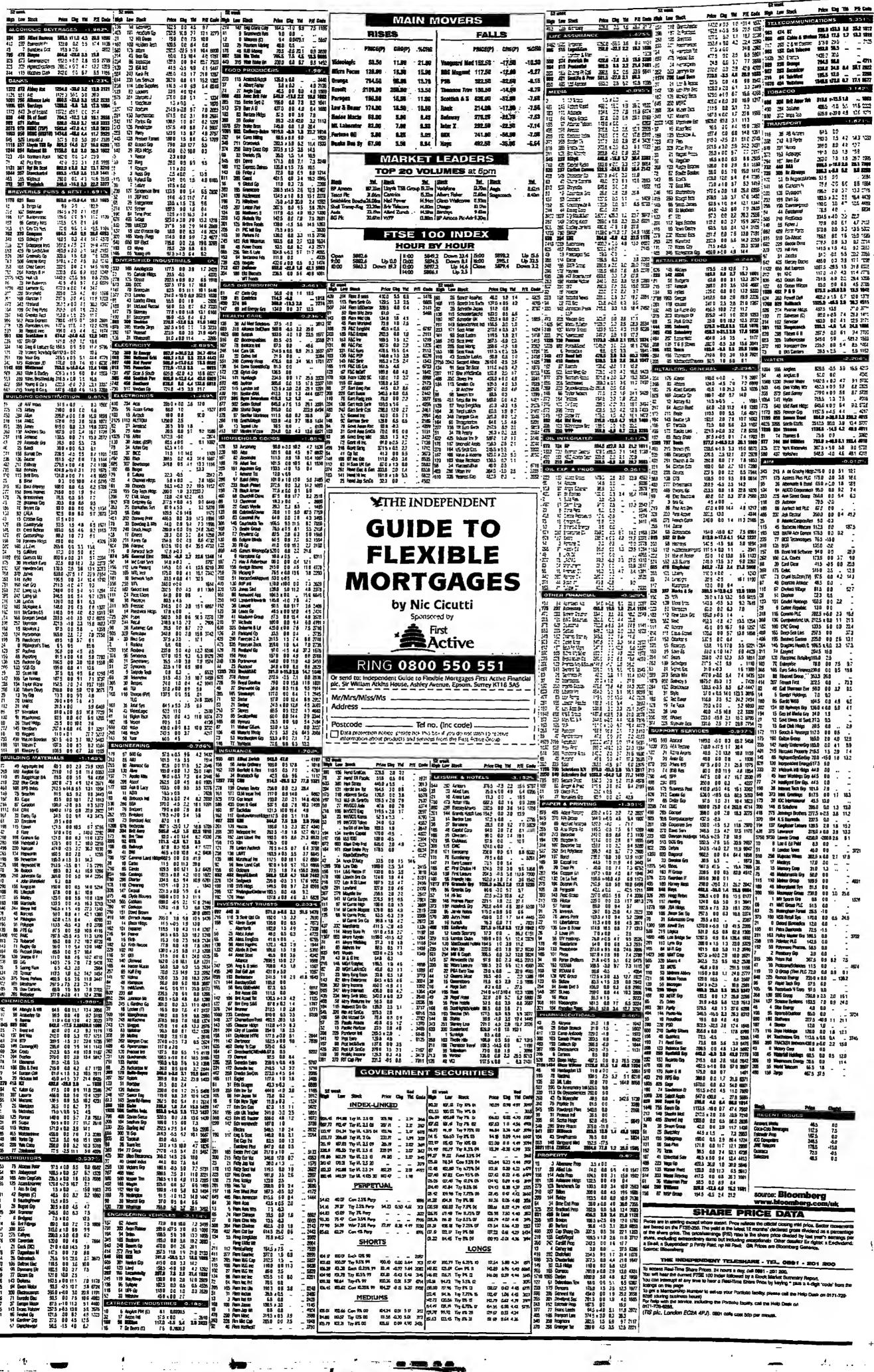
Notice to customers

New interest rates for mortgage customers.

With effect from 4 January 1999 the interest rates for existing mortgage customers are decreased by 0.5% to:

	Old rate % p.a.	New rate % p.a.	APR%
Home Loan Rate	8.20	7.70	7.9
Home Improvement Loan Rate Loans sanctioned before 26.4.89	10.20	9.70	10.0
House Mortgage Rate	8.20	7.70	7 .9

Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 22 December 1998 Midland Bank pic, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX. HSBC (D) is the brand of Midland Bank ple



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BP Amoco adds to volatile start

TELECOMS SOARED, retailers wilted, the euro caused minor ripples and a row erupted over Britain's newest and biggest company, BP Amoco. With trading volume brushing 1 billion shares, the first stock market day of 1999 was busy and eventful.

BP Amoco, with Seag putting volume at 187.2 million shares and the price rising 21.5p to 924.5p, started trading following the American Federal Trade Commission's approval just before the New Year shut down of BP's merg-footed fund managers who er with the US giant Amoco.

The resultant behemoth has a capitalisation of more than £85bn, leapfrogging Glaxo Wellcome, valued at around £77bn, to become the largest Footsie constituent.

Although the merger won a chorus of support from analysts at many investment houses, there were howis of protest from fund managers caught out by a late, if rather arcane, change after the link was confirmed by the FTC.

On Wednesday, a day ahead of US approval, Footsie International, which regu-

ANAGEN, a failed drugs husiness, is making a market comeback. It is taking over Gander, a property group, in a share exchange deal which will allow Gander to use Anagen's £27m of losses to offset future profits. Anagen was delisted last year and is now a shell.

William Cairns, who put up the sum of £200,000 to save the company from liquidation, will have 3 per cent of the combined group. Gander's share price rose 0.25p to 7p.

lates London's share indices, announced a formula for calculating the BP Amoco share price once the merger was

Wisely, FI said that if the indicated price "appears unresubstitute a "more represenprice is what caused the dis-

What was described yesterday as "misinformation" sent Amoco and BP soaring in New York late on Thursday. The confusion was caused by reports that there were 8,000 buyers of Amoco shares; they should, apparently, have said 8,000 sellers.

Under the original formula BP Amoco should have opened in London yesterday at 954p, but the revised price decreed by FI was 911.75p. Such a gap made a considerable difference to the opening index, and hopelessly wrong-

any new licences for its tech-

nology in 1998. However, the dis-

appointment was tempered by the news that Calcomp, a US

printers which Xaar claimed

were infringing its patents.

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

had calculated something near 954p and also lost out on shares they acquired in New York. In the event BP Amoco started trading at around 925p, with Footsie up 26.8 points.

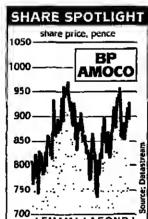
The heavy BP Amoco volume reflected, in part, the confusion over the Footsie formula and the need for tracker funds to increase their weighting in the new giant.

After a volatile session. Footsie ended 3.2 points off at 5.879.4, despite a strong New York display and a recovery by continental markets that had wilted ahead of the euro's arrival. At one time the index was off 71.3; just 30 minutes ahead of the close it was up 34.3 before a late selling rush took its toll.

Telecoms, spurred by encouraging festive season mobile phone sales, were on a wavelength all their own. Orange led the surge, up 13.74 per cent to 794.5p; Vodafone managed a 73p gain to 1,049p, a peak, and Securicor was up 34p to 538p. BT rose 33.5p (after 52.5p) to 939p. Telewest Communications, 12p up at 185.5p, and Colt Telecom.

56.5p up at 953p, also buzzed. But for retailers it was gloom again as CSFB cut profit forecasts for most of the eaders. Goldsmiths, the jeweller, followed its confirmation of a possible management buyout with a dull trading statement and fell 15p to 154p.

Superstores were disconcerted by signs that a price war could develop, although liable" it reserved the right to Asda's price-cutting was dismissed in some quarters as a tative" price. This revised defensive move and not as the



700 J FMAMJ J A SONDJ

Printer group issues warning

XAAR, the ink jet printing group, yesterday issued a prof-it warning after it failed to sign By PETER THAL LARSEN expectations. The caution follows Xaar's statement in September that full-year results and timing of licence fee negotations for its potentially revorival, had ceased shipments of

technology. Calcomp announced on De-Shares in Xaar rose 4.5p to cember 29 that it was consid-60.5p despite the company's be "significantly below" market including the sale of its assets portfolio."

or a complete shutdown of its operations, and that it expected to stop shipping its Crystal-

Jet printers. The firm has been locked in would depend on the outcome a legal battle with Xaar since July last year, when the UK firm launched a claim that the printlutionary new printing ers infringed its patents. Yesterday, Xaar said it "remains confident in the value and integrity of its intellectual propwarning that 1998 results would ering strategic alternatives erty rights and patent Investment: The best tip this year is to pick sectors that did well last year

Put your bet on telecoms, pharmaceuticals or utilities

HOW THE SECTORS PERFORMED IN 1998

percentage change

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

first salvo in a pricing con-

frontation. Asda rose 2p to

163.25p, but Tesco lost 9,25p

to 162p and J Sainsbury

31.25p to 450.25p. Safeway

on Irish banks, now seen as

European players; Allied Irish Bank rose 56p to 1,126p.

and the advent of the euro had

encouraged some fund man-

agers to remove possible

trades from the computerised

order book. On yesterday's

form they appeared to be in no

group and made a good prof-

it in the process helped Allied

Domecq 11p higher to 565.5p. Imperial Chemical In-

dustries's failure to sell its

Tioxide operations left the

indehted group down 29p at

Mirror Group, the news-

SERVOMEX, which

designs and sells

industrial instruments,

jumped 10.5p to 127p in

late trading as rumours

swirled of a takeover bid

from City Technology, up

Servomex shares were

1p at 200p. City, which

makes gas sensors.

1997 and the group forecast lower profits for

the past 12 months.

declined to comment.

humping along at 97.5p

last month. Profits fell in

last year. The shares bave

come down from 372.5p in

son for last week's surge - on

Wednesday the price jumped

77.5p. It repeated earlier com-

ments that annual results de-

pended on the timing of sales

contracts, "a significant num-

ber of which are signed at or

as Sunley Family, an unquot-

ed group, called a meeting to

approve board changes. Zaar,

up 14p to 70p, fell back to 60.5p

after the electronic equip-

ment group produced a shock

SEAQ VOLUME: 1 billion

SEAO TRADES: 77.404

Tay Homes held at 107.5p

around the year end".

profits warning.

Drug shares were on a

hurry to put them back.

77p to 2,694p.

The long festive holiday

The main euro impact was

fell 22.75p to 279.25p.

STOCK MARKET investors divide into two breeds: the bottom-up variety and those who favour the top-down approach.

Broadly speaking, bottom-up investors select individual stocks, regardless of what industry they inhabit, on the basis of several tried and tested valuation methods such as price/earnings and price-tosales ratios. The top-down variety tend to decide which sectors are likely to do well, and then

pick stocks within those areas. high, with Glaxo Wellcome Over the past few days, most newspapers (including this one) 61p stronger at 2,129p on talk of a counterbid for Zeneca, up have been littered with share tips for 1999. But few pundits have Suggestions that it had taken a top-down view. This is cuclinched a £500m sale of its rious, if only because most large Cantrell & Cochrane drinks institutional investors in the

City are doing little else. Given the sheer size of the portfolios they administer, fund managers cannot just pick a handful of stocks and invest in them. So they start by spreading their cash across the various sectors in equal proportion to their weighting in the stock market. Then, in an attempt to beat the index, they vary their exposure to a number of sectors so that they are under or overweight to

going to do well or badly. As they do every year, equity strategists in the City have been drawing up their sector recommendations over the past few

the industries they think are

weeks. The consensus seems to be that the market is hard to call. Last year the market was dominated by growth stocks

such as the telecom sector, which almost doubled in value, and pharmaceuticals, which followed closely behind. However, the experts wonder

whether these sectors can continue to perform. "It's a very difficult market to read," says Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse Tilney. "It is very highly rated and I find it hard to believe that the pharmaceutical and telecom sectors can continue to run ahead."

However, most observers are also convinced that companies whose fortunes are closely linked to the performance of the

economy will continue to suffer. Even though few expect a fullblown recession, they think the new year will be marked by more profit warnings. "We've still got some disappointing news to get through over the next few

uity strategist at BT Alex Brown. As a result, Mr Semple advises investors to stick with the "safe" sectors that are not dependent on the state of the economy. Apart from telecoms and pharmaceuticals he points to traditionally defensive sectors such as utilities and food.

Mr Jeffrey is more optimistic. He suggests the economic slowdown may be less severe than

expected, and suggests that stocks in the breweries, pubs and restaurants sector could do well.

Meanwhile, he argues that small and mid-cap companies, which bave dramatically underperformed the larger stocks in recent years, could come into months," says Bob Semple, eqtheir own. "There is good value in small caps," he says.

> Those defensive noises are echoed by Goldman Sachs. which advises clients to be overweight in utilities and consumer goods but to avoid the financials and capital goods industries.

The fear of banks is a general theme. After the shocks of the past year, when the world financial crisis left many banks nursing heavy losses, strategists are reluctant to consider the retail banking sector, even though it has trailed the index. "We still don't know what kind of provisions they are going to have to take," says one analyst.

So is there no hope for the industrial stocks that have been heavily clobbered by the strength of sterling and the Asian crisis? According to Mr Semple, there is one ray of light: the prospect of sterling losing ground against the dollar and the newly-formed euro, which would ease the pain for exporters.

Until the economic picture becomes clearer, bowever, the verdict from most experts is to stick with those sectors that have done well in the past year.

Property starts year on shaky foundations

extend the abysmal run which made them one of the stock market casualties of 1998 into the new year, say City analysts.

Fears that the slowdown may cause a sharp downturn in paper company, responded to the highly cyclical property reports of venture capitalist bids and a confirmed TV link market sparked a wave of sellwith Glasgow Rangers with a ing in developers' shares in the 10p gain to 159.5p. Lncaspast 12 months. The sector Varity hardened 7.25p to now trades at a 25 per cent dis-207.75p on bid talk. count to its members' net asset Software group Staffware value (NAV) - the value of the fell 40p to 227.5p after saying buildings owned by developers that it was unaware of any rea-

PROPERTY STOCKS look set to BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

20 per cent 12 months ago. Analysts expect this undervaluation to increase further in 1999, and forecast a discount of 30 per cent by 2000.

The position is even gloomier for smaller developers. Some of the 100-plus minnows quoted on the London market are on discounts to NAV of over 40 per cent, making them ideal targets for takeover or management buyout. - compared with a premium of

Part of this underperfor-

mance is due to investors' pessimistic view of the property market in the near term, Rental and property values - key indicators of profit growth - are expected to remain flat across the market in 1999.

However, industry experts believe the downturn will be less dramatie than in past recessions, and few expect a repeat of the 1980s crash. "The huge difference this time is that there aren't buge swathes of developments about to hit the market," one analyst said.

Some sectors are expected to nies such as Slough Estates a weather the downturn. Hugh Rich at Charterbouse Tilney favours developers with large out-of-town retail properties. With planning regulations on shopping centres set to become tighter companies with existing developments will dominate the

market, he feels. Mr Rich selects Capital Shopping Centres, Pillar, Grantchester and Capital & Regional as retail developers to watch. Industrial properties in the South-east are also likely to see an upturn, making compa-

good punt.

The other bull point for small developers will be industry consolidation, "A number of fund managers are really fed up with the underperformance and will push for corporate action," one analyst sald,

The City's bot tips for takeovers are Allied London and Chesterfield. Greycoat, the City of London specialist, is among the targets, and even Hammerson could attract interest from foreign suitors.

One son fails to rise at Carpetright

MARTIN HARRIS, 29-year-old son of Lord Harris of Peckham, has quit as an executive director of his father's company, Carpetright, just 18 months after being appointed, in order

to sort out his private life. Lord Harris, 56, who rejected charges of nepotism when he promoted his son to the position of marketing director in June 1997, said yesterday he was "very sorry to be losing him. He's done a hell of a good

The former Conservative Party treasurer denied rumours that his son's departure was due to a row over the company, which is 22 per cent

owned by the family. Carpetright recently lost its finance director, Ian Sneyd, who was replaced in July by Shena Winning after a dis-

agreement over how the group should be run. Martin Harris, who is 30 on 17 January, will remain a nonexecutive director of the 300strong carpet shop chain. He will receive no payoff. Lord

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS By John Willcock

return to full service with the on the possible merits of opencompany in around six months'

Lord Harris has three sons and a daughter. Carpetright also employs elder son Peter, bourne", the high-toned opera who is in charge of purchasing house in East Sussex. But it was Martin, educated at Curry University in Boston, who the City assumed was being groomed to inherit the

John Kitching, managing add marketing to his responsi-

JONATHAN FRY, the boss of go by. Premier Asset Management, travelled northwards recently to compare notes with one of his business contacts. Graham firm of independent financial

advisers (IFAs1 based in the

Midlands. Mr Bates was musing aloud Harris hopes that Martin will

ing an office down south in London. Mr Fry observed that Mr Bates only wanted to do so "in order to join Glynde-

Mr Bates replied: "But you know I don't know anything about football clubs." Perhaps he should stick to

Covent Garden United...

director at Carpetright, will IT'S NOT just Sassenachs who harbour stereotypical images of the noble Scots, if a recent TV advert in Greece is anything to

Panafon, the Greek subsidiary of mobile phone group Vodafone, ran an ad for Panafon's float on the Greek stock Bates of Bates & Partners, a exchange just before Christ-firm of independent financial mas. It featured two Scotsmen in kilts doing the twist to the throbbing beat of Chubby Checker in front of a roaring log



Lord Harris: "Very sorry" his son Martin has quit

fire. The sign-off ran: "So cheap it even makes a Scotsman party." Disgraceful.

A PROTEGE of Peter Wood, the founder of Direct Line, has been appointed chief executive of the retail arm of one of

lege Insurance, another firm bumdrum assets of bricks and founded by Mr Wood, which Mr mortan

Utley helped turn into Britain's fastest-growing general insurer in his last two years as chief executive.

Mr Utley is moving to Cox Insurance as chief executive of its retail division. Cox was formed from a Lloyds' specialist underwriting business around 10 years ago, providing cover for things such as nuclear power stations and private air-

At least the rest of Cox's executive is a bit more venerable. Duncan Heath 59, the current head of the retail division, will replace the current chairman. Roger Heath, 65, who is retiring this year.

THE MORE cynical of the City's analysts bave come up with a new collective catch phrase for small spivvy property

shares - "lifestyle stocks". They are so named because the UK's top 10 personal in- the sbareholders' funds go to surance companies - at the ten- support the champagne, caviar and chauffeur-driven lifestyles Neil Utley is leaving Privi- of the executives rather than

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SPORT

Rugby Union: Ulster's European Cup semi-final against Stade Français leads the way in a country-wide renaissance

Irish eyes have reason to smile



Ireland's back row discovery, Andy Ward (centre), prepares the Ulster players at Ravenhill yesterday for a big effort in Saturday's European Cup match against Stade Français

IT IS, as usual, a filthy Friday night in Belfast and the rain is lashing horizontally across Ravenhill. Some 12,000 supporters are sardined into the very stadium where Ireland completed their one and only Five Nations' Grand Slam more than half a century ago and, much as their forefathers did on that famous day in 1948, they are yelling and screaming like banshees. The ball is permanently in the air, the fires are hurning in the souls of 15 granitehard Ulstermen, God is in his heaven and Toulouse, those swaggering rugby aristocrats from south-west European Cup.

"That," smiles Harry Williams, the Ulster coach, as the dust settles on a wonderfully unexpected 15-13 triumph, "must be the best result in our history." Maybe, maybe not; Ulster have had lots of best results in their history. They beat Andrew Slack's 1984 Wallabies, one of the two or three finest sides ever to tour these islands, and they twice fought the All Blacks to a standstill in thunderous drawn matches. They also won nine successive inter-provincial titles from 1985 to 1993, when they could boast Trevor Ringland and Keith Crossan on the wings, David Irwin in the centre. Willie Anderson in the boilerhouse and Phil Matthews in the

This much, though, can be set Eric Miller at No 8, have abandoned



CHRIS HEWETT

France, are on their way out of the down in reinforced concrete: victory on Saturday over Stade Français, the most lavishly gifted club side in the world, would be an achievement worthy of its own special place in the Ravenhill memory bank. It would be spectacular enough as an end in itself; European Cup semi-finals are not exactly common currency among the Irish provinces and besides, the visiting Frenchmen really are that good, armed as they are with a team of internationals welded together by Max Guazzini's countless millions. But this occasion delves far deeper and runs much wider as a symbol of Ireland's rugby

> From Belfast to Cork via Galway and Dublin, the game is on a mighty roll; virtually an entire Test team, from Simon Mason at full-back to

Premiership and returned home, thereby enabling the three European Cup provinces - Ulster, Munster and Leinster - to prevail over quality French opposition during the pool phase of the current European tournament. As a result, the crowds are well up on last year and the national team is feeling better about itself and its chances of making a decent fist of this autumn's World

Cup adventure. "Til take as much European rugby as I can get," said Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, this week. "It's all about demystifying the game at the highest level; when Irish provincial players face the best French teams with such regularity and start beating them, they begin to realise their opponents are not

lucrative careers in the English such supermen after all. Why put them on a pedestal? Two or three years ago, Ulster would not have beaten Toulouse in a European Cup quarter-final; they would have caved in as the game moved into its later stages. This time, though, I genuinely see the match as a 50-50 game.

"The fact that we have so many of our leading players training to-gether on a professional basis here in Ireland has led to a big improvement in fitness levels. The gap between what has been happening in England and France and the things happening here is closing very quickly and judging by the way things are shaping up, I think we're looking at a very competitive Five Nations' championship this season."

By luring seven players back from the Allied Dunbar Premiership,

persuasive of the provinces. Three of those recruits - Mason, Jonathan Bell and the former London Irish stand-off, David Humphreys - have featured throughout the European Cup campaign while a fourth, the hooker Allen Clarke, has missed only one match. With 106 points already in his kitbag, Mason, once of Richmond, is the tournament's leading scorer Humphreys, meanwhile, dropped two goals to help beat Toulouse on that rainswept night a little over three weeks ago and has shouldered the captaincy burden in

Ulster proved themselves the most

Their presence, along with that of Gatlin's remarkable back row discovery, Andy Ward, has been the dri-

three Heineken Cups was unhappy:

they lost both pool games in the 1995-

96 competition, fared little better the

following year, and were even more

dismal last season, when Wasps

put almost 100 points past them in

two outings. This season, though, they have been magnificent, with two victories over Toulouse, the 1996

champions, in the space of seven

the prolonged absence of Mark Mc-

ergetic and resourceful chief executive at Ravenhill who has presided over the dramatic aboutving force behind Ulster's welcome turn. "We needed to make something happen, so we went after hig names across the water. I'm glad to say we got it right. Humphreys and the rest have been a revelation; I'd go so far as to say that they brought professionalism with them across the Ulster's experience in the first

Trish Sea "I moved here 15 months ago and it seemed to me that even though the existing squad considered themselves professionals, they were going through the motions. Playing at it, almost. There is no doubt in my mind that the players we signed from the big English clubs have thrown a completely different light on the at Lansdowne Road? That would be meaning of professionalism; the Al-

side of serious stature. Traditional-

ly the strongest of the four Irish

provinces, the All Whites fell on hard

times after winning their last do-

mestic title almost six years ago.

Their early forays into Europe bor-

dered on the embarrassing - two vic-

tories in 12 matches over three

years - and when Tony Russ, such

a successful coach with Saracens

and Leicester jumped ship in 1997

after deciding that life with lowly Wa-

terioo offered the brighter future, the

northerners were down on their

knowledges Michael Reid, the en-

"They were had times," ac-

lied Dunbar is a tough, high quality re-emergence as a representative competition and those involved know what it is to make the necessary sacrifices and put it the requisite amount of effort. The Bells and Clarkes of this world are serious operators and they've hrought a new dimension to our rugby."

Talking of new dimensions, Reid. a former coach with the Irish Fourth Division club Collegians, has drawn on his banking background to turn things round commercially. "Our decision to start playing hig matches on a Friday night rather than a Saturday afternoon has been justified by a wave of public support; we're averaging crowds of 8,500 this season, as opposed to a couple of thousand last year. The floodlighting here is magnificent, the atmosphere is very special and the whole package has earned us an awful lot of converts.

"In many ways, it's a shame Stade Français wouldn't play this one on Friday night. Still, we don't need to perform under lights to give the French something to think about. Our whole attitude is different somehow. Twelve months ago we'd have happily settled for a European Cup quarter-final and not even dared ask for anything more. We wouldn't have considered ourselves worthy. Right now, though, we'll have a go at anyone. A nice final grand, wouldn't it?"

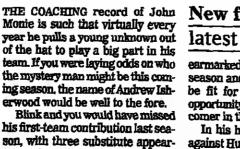
Ulster the real breeding ground

about the pride and passion of Munster, but the real power in Irish provincial rugby is located well to the north of Cork and Limerick. Think of Ulster and you think of Jackie Kyle, Mike Gibson, Willie-John McBride and 24 All-Ireland provincial titles, either shared or won outright, since the competition was first introduced in 1946. When you take into account a barren decade

THE ROMANTICS love to blarney on between 1957 and 1966, the sheer weight of domestic achievement is all the more remarkable.

Rugby first caught on in Ulster in 1868 as a winter exercise for members of the North of Ireland Cricket Club; within a year, Queen's University, Belfast, was boasting its own side. Ulster were not a founding province of the Irish Rugby Union in 1874 but by 1879 they were

Isherwood makes early impact



ances his sum total. Yet Lee Gilmour had made even less of a mark than that this time last year and went on to play in every game of Wigan's successful 1998 rugby league campaign. It is a precedent that appeals to the 19-year-old Isherwood. "It shows

that you will get a chance," he says. "And what I'd like to achieve is a permanent first-team place."

That might not be the wild Done Rowcliffe ambition it sounds. With Gilmour ative latecomer to the game, not

New faces for 1999: A second row of real rugby talent is the latest addition to Wigan's front line. By Dave Hadfield

earmarked to play in the centres this season and Denis Betts unlikely to team after his first match. be fit for the early rounds, the opportunity could be there for a new-

comer in the second row. In his hrief tastes of the action against Huddersfield. Hull and Warrington, Isherwood showed enough to suggest that he will be able to

"I didn't find it as daunting as I thought I would," he says. "But when you've got players like Andy Farrell in the changing-rooms with you it helps a lot. Denis Betts and Terry O'Connor have been really helpful as well.

Like Betts, Isherwood was a rel-

playing until he was 12 and then being selected for the Leigh Town

Other clubs were soon tracking him, but there was never much douht that he would be joining Wigan, where he has gradually and carefully been groomed for bigger things. He stood out in both the Academy and Alliance sides last season, coming under the influence of another former second-row forward

of some note. "I owe a lot to Andy Goodway," he acknowledges. "I learnt a lot

from him last season that I needed to know before I could go any

When he started to train with the

first-team squad midway through last season, Isherwood decided that his college course in psychology would have to be shelved, although one of the many things that Wigan

like about him is that he is mature

beyond his years. "I couldn't carry on at college and give rugby 100 per cent," he says.

"There will be time for that later." Wigan point to him having done the right thing in clearing the decks by planning to take Isherwood to the first-team training camp in Lanzarote this month - the most solid indication yet that he figures prominently in Monie's plans. He has already shown that he is outstand.

Great Britain Academy side and being named as man of the match in a hard-earned victory across the Channel.

Now it is time to join the big boys and there are plenty at Wigan who believe that he will make a smooth

The club's former chief executive, Phil Clarke - yet another distinguished hack-row forward into whose orbit he has fallen - tells a story about rebuking Isherwood when he found him reading a down-

market tabloid. As an intelligent young man, he told him, he should be scanning something more like The Independent. "But I need to understand the thought processes of my teammates," Isherwood retorted. A bright answer from a bright lad ing at his age level, playing for the with a bright future.



Andrew Isherwood: Part of Monie's plans

aissance



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Modern burdens ensure less-than-happy hookers

ONE OF my rugby maxims is that it is possible to look 50 per cent better than you really are as an openside flanker if you are bald, blond or red-headed, or wear a scrum-cap. Even the most hardened inhabitant of the press box will say: "Look at that No 7. He's everywhere. Should be in line for a cap before long." This is one maxim which has survived the onset of professionalism and changes in the laws.

A more recent maxim of mine is: the worst position on the field is hooker. No wonder they shave their heads and trot around the pitch as if they expect to be arrested at any minute, as, indeed, some of them no names, no writs - undoubtedly should be. Their hurdens are legion,

their responsibilities multifarious. They are expected to secure the ball on their own put-in. True, they



WATKINS

always were. This aspect of their duties has become lighter with the passage of the years, as referees now tolerate flagrantly crooked feeds which, if they are spotted at all, are penalised with an indirect penalty. More, they are expected to cavort

around the field like supernumer- Sean Fitzpatrick of New Zealand, positions of the feet of the hookers and everywhere. Several of them are very good at this aspect of their tasks. Colin Deans, the former Scotland hooker, was as fast as a back Richard Cockerill, the current occupant for England, would not claim to be a Deans, of whom he may well never have heard. But he is no slouch either.

Above all, hookers are expected not only to throw in straight at the lineout but so to direct their throw that their own side secure possession. If a hooker fails to do this he is liable either to receive the sympathy of the commentators as a player who is having a bad day or to be denounced by them as some-

one who is not up to the job. The latter fate befell Phil Kearns,

ary flankers, turning up here, there used to be considered the best practitioner in the world. The occasion was the recent England v Australia match at Twickenham. Poor Kearns kept missing the target, wiping the ball and becoming perceptibly more worried by the minute. At half-time he was

> It was evideot that the ball was not landing where Kearns wanted it to land. However, it is a hig jump from this to lay down that the hooker must always throw in such a way as to secure possession from the lineout. For this is to admit that the lineout has become a formality or a farce.

substituted.

A scrum, even with the rarity of straight put-in, still gives the

and the props. A lineout, even with lifting allowed, should provide no comparable advantage to the side throwing in.

In the nature of things there

must, of course, be some advantage, because the hooker, his scrum-half and several forwards know - or ought to know - the point which he is aiming to reach. It does not follow from this that the hooker should guarantee possession. If he can, there is something wrong with the supervision of the lineout by the referee. I believe there are two evils at

One is that players dart about, changing places as if they were engaged in some childish game, while the hooker pretends to make advantage to the side putting in. It a throw. The referees should put a the Australian hooker - who, after does so because of the relative stop to musical chairs and dummy

ber of forwards chosen) should be required to stand in the order in which they propose to contest the lineout. The hooker should then have to throw in without delay and with no dummying allowed - any more than either ploy would be allowed in a scrum-half putting

into the scrum.

The second evil is more controversial. Indeed, it is popularly to the gap between the players. If there is one spectacle calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of dear old Bill McLaren, it is that of a referee two lines of forwards like a sergeantmajor, roughly pushing apart citizens about three times his size. And yet this much-prized gap is an invitation

to violent collision. It also encour-

throws. The forwards (or the num- ages the musical chairs. It should be diminished drastically or even eliminated altogether.

And why, in any case, should the hooker be responsible for throwing in? Until the late 1960s the wings did the joh. Very often it was the only contact with the ball which they enjoyed throughout the game.

The French persisted with this system for longer than anyone else. Then Jacques Fouroux, the French regarded as a shining virtue. I refer coach and former scrum-half, handed the task to the scrum half.

Coaches should once again show more imagination about who does the throwing in. Referees should be parading up and down between the more vigilant unless they want the lineout to go the same way as the scrum as a source of uncontested possession. But perhaps this is precisely what the organisers of mod-

Officials cause play-off mayhem Setback

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

IT IS not only managers and players from the Premiership who are unhappy about refereeing standards. Their counterparts across the Atlantic have been seething all year about a series of blown calls and debatable decisions, and the clamour for the return of the instant replay system will doubtless intensify after two of the weekend's four play-off games were effectively determined by officiating errors.

The San Francisco 49ers prevailed 30-27 over the Green Bay Packers in a game of genuine drama that was overshadowed by a bad call on the 49ers' final drive. Trailing by three points, the Packers took the lead when Brett Favre threw a 10vard touchdown to Antonio Freeman with less than two minutes left.

Needing a touchdown to win, San Francisco's hopes looked to be dashed when the receiver, Jerry Rice, fumbled. The officials ruled that Rice was down before the ball came loose, although replays showed that he had lost the ball prior to contact with the ground.

It proved to be a game-changing decision, because with just three seconds remaining. Steve Young threw a 25-yard touchdown to the receiver Terrell Owens, and the 49ers were through to a meeting with the Atlanta Falcons in the most dramatic of effects actionness

There was nothing but bitterness in the visitors' locker-room afterwards. Players who criticise officials are fined, but Green Bay's general manager, Ron Wolf, allowed his frustration to boil over. "It's tough to lose no matter how you do it, but when you make a play, and it's not awarded to you, something's wrong with the whole system," be said. "It is something that has to be addressed."

Frustration, too, for the Buffalo Bills, who were penalised nine times for 93 yards in their 24-17 reverse at the Miami Dolphins. At least four of the penalties were highly questionable, but the worst came when the Bills, trailing hy 10 points, had a touchdown called back, the officials ruling that the receiver Andre Reed had come up short of the end zone.

Again, replays suggested that Reed had scored, and the receiver reacted with such anger that he was ejected from the game. Instead, the Bills had to settle for a field goal, and



San Francisco receiver Terrell Owens scores a touchdown with three seconds remaining to shatter Green Bay's hopes in a controversial finale

do with time running out. The Dolphins now meet the Denver

"I don't know if they have other jobs or what, hut they need to devote fulltime to what they do," Reed fumed. "They need to go back to school because some of the calls they made were the worst in the last 20 years."

in a season marred by poor officiating, its return seems inevitable.

No such controversy in the weekend's other two play-off games. The long-suffering Arizona Cardinals won their first post-season contest since 1947 by upsetting the Dallas Cowboys 20-7. The underdogs from Arizona harried the Dallas quarterback, Troy Aikman, sacking him The NFL abandoned the use of

found themselves with too much to instant replay three years ago, but four times and forcing him to throw three interceptions. In contrast, the Cards' quarterback, Jake Plummer. threw scoring passes to Adrian Murrell and Larry Centers to cause the higgest upset of the season. Arizona will visit the Minnesota

Vikings in the next round. The injury-plagued New Eogland Patriots were unable to overcome the absence of their quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, a brave but ultimately futile rearguard action resulting in a 25-10 reverse at the hands of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The Jaguars had injury problems of their own. Their quarterback, Mark Brunell, returned after missing five weeks with an ankle sprain, hut looked less than impressive in completing just 14 of his 34 passes.

running back Fred Taylor was at his best rushing for 162 yards and scoring the game's opening touchdown on a 13-yard run. Their reward is a daunting trip to the New York Jets

next week. NPL PLAN-OFFS: Marni 24 Bultalo 17, Artzona 20 Dellas 7: Jacksonville 25 New England 10; San Frantisco 30 Green Bay 21 DYUSSONAL GANTES SCHEDULE (Sacurday): NPC: San Francisco at Atlanta, APC: Marti at Den-ver (Sunday): APC: Jacksonville at NY Jets. NPC: Autona at Minnesota.

Fortunately for Jacksonville, the Bologna cash in on NBA lock-out Storm increase

ENGLAND'S Michael Olowokandi will begin his professional career in Italy with Kinder Bologna instead of By JEFF TAYLOR

the United States because of the ongoing labour dispute which is threatening to force the cancellation of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season. Olowokandi, born in Nigeria hut who moved to England at a young

a multi-million pound contract with the Los Angeles Clippers before NBA bosses shut down the league year deal for the England reserve to try to renegotiate the moneysharing agreement with players.

age, was the No 1 pick in last sum-

mer's NBA draft and was set to sign

BASKETBALL

cancellation of half of this year's games. The campaign faces a complete collapse this week with owners and players admitting they are at a dead end in negotiations.

"If the NBA season is resumed, be'll be able to return and play. If the season is cancelled, he'll atay in Italy," said Billy Duffy, Olowokandi's agent. Duffy, who also fixed a threecentre, Andy Betts, with another Italian side, Teamsystem Bologna, The dispute, known as the NBA added: "It'll be his option to stay with lock-out, has already forced the Kinder for the rest of the season."

Olowokandi will reportedly earn £650,000 up to 15 February and if he finishes the season with the Italians he will receive another £1.3m.

Olowokandi, despite his size and athleticism, failed to draw any interest in England several years ago. He had a trial with the Budweiser League's Thames Valley Tigers but was not offered a contract and, after randomly choosing Pacific University in the United States, was

invited to the team. The 7ft 1in shot-blocking centre, who is still wanted by the England coach, Laszlo Nemeth, for the national team, developed into one of the most dominating big men at colle-

If he joins Kinder Bologna, the reigning European and Italian League champions, his contract stipulates he can return to America if the NBA lock-out ends, but no later than 15 February.

We're betting the NBA season won't start," a Kinder team spokesman, Marco Angrisani, said. "We have reached a tentative agree ment with Olowokandi's agent and now we're just waiting for him to get

Olowokandi could make his debut in a Euro League second-round game on Thursday at PAOK Salonica in Greece. Yesterday was the deadline for registering players for Euro

Quarry lost a disputed 15-round

title bout to Jimmy Ellis on 27 April,

their lead at top MANCHESTER STORM moved five points clear at the top of the Sekonda Superleague after nearest rivals Cardiff Devils crashed to their third

successive defeat on Sunday night. Storm comfortably beat Bracknell Bees 4-1 at the Manchester Arena with the visitors again forced to play a 16-year-old netminder, Craig Astle, because of injuries to Mark Bernard and Brian Greer.

Astle produced a superb performance in keeping Manchester down to four goals, with a Jeff Tomlinson brace either side of a strike from Bracknell's Shayne McCosh putting Storm 2-1 ahead by the end of the second period. Manchester wrapped up the points with third-period goals from Jeff Jahlonski and Stefan Ke-

Cardiff, meanwhile, lost 6-3 to an injury and flu-hit Sheffield side at the Sheffield Arena. The home side had nine players who were told by doctors they should not be playing hut none the less coasted to victory with goals from Rob Wilson, Derek Laxdal, Tony Hand, Ed Courtenay. Ken Priestlay and Hakan Falkenhall.

Ayr Scottish Eagles came from 2-0 down after Jason Campeau and Mike Harding had put London Knights in front at the Centrum.

The Eagles rattled home six goals without reply as a double from Mark Wolf came either side of strikes Stocco completed the rout.

from David St Pierre, John Parco, and a hrace from Karry Biette. Nottingbam Panthers remain eight points adrift of the leaders after beating Newcastle Riverkings at the Telewest Arena.

After a scoreless first period Newcastle took a two-goal lead through Dale Jago and Mike Bodnarchuk. Nottingham, bowever, were level by the end of the second period courtesy of goals from Randall Weber and Jamie Leach, before Jarret Zukiwsky sealed victory for the Panthers. It was the second comeback in as many nights for the Panthers, who on Saturday had to score twice in the closing 72 seconds to see off the flu-ridden Sheffield Steelers.

Despite their defeat at Ayr, London Knights rose off the bottom of the table on Saturday after beating Bracknell Bees 9-3 at Amen Corner for their biggest win of the season.

The game was over inside half an hour as Corey Lyons and Kelly Glowa had both netted twice. P C Drouin pulled one back for the Bees, but two goals for Debb Carpenter, a third for Glowa and one from Mike Harding followed as Knights ran riot.

Colin Ward and Dennis Burke added a touch of respectability to Bracknell's goals tally, before Regan

as World **Nines** dumped

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE GAME'S international development has suffered a significant blow with the cancellation of the World Nines in Johannesburg less than five weeks before the tournament was due to take place.

The 10-team event has been scrapped because of a lack of television coverage in Britain and Australia, according to the South African Rugby League, "Sky could not find a spot for it at short notice and that had an impact on sponsors," said its chairman, Barry Haslam.

The tournament was only awarded to South Africa last month after an offer from Louis Luvt, the former president of the South African Rugby Football Union. to underwrite it. Luyt owns Ellis Park and is eager to stage events there: particularly ones, it seems, that cut

across his former Sarfu allies. "We are very disappointed that the World Nines will not be taking place, hut we understand the reasons," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunnicliffe. "It was neways going to be difficult to organise the tournament in such a short time frame."

Sky Television said yesterday that the shortage of time had indeed been the problem. "We were not informed about the tournament until 21 December and that didn't give time to schedule the event," a spokesman said. "At no stage was Sky committed to covering it."

The next meeting of the international federation and the draw for the 2000 World Cup, both earmarked for the same week in Johannesburg, will now he re-arranged.

The 2000 and 2001 Nines tournaments, also awarded to South Africa, are still scheduled to take place there, as is the one-off match between Great Britain and New Zealand in November, but the credibility of the event has suffered greatly.

Ironically, the news of the cancellation came on the day that the Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, named a 14-man squad for the tournament. Nobody will be more disappointed at it being scrapped than two teenagers, with only a brief taste of first-team rugby behind them, who had been included in the

Stuart Fielden, a 19-year-old prop, made his mark in Bradford's injury hit pack last season, while Leeds' Kevin Sinfield is even more of an emerging talent. The 18-year-old loose forward or stand-off only figured briefly in the first team last year, but impressed in the Christmas friendlies against Halifax and Castleford. Goodway had included both players with the World Cup in Britain in 2000 in mind, planning to give them international experience now in order to accelerate their devel-

opment. One of Britain's greatest players of the modern era, Garry Schofield, has agreed to make a playing comeback with struggling Doncaster. Schofield was sacked as playercoach at Huddersfield last season and has been playing rugby union at Aberayon.

The one stumbling block in the way of his return to league at the age of 33 is that Doncaster have to show that they are financially viable before being confirmed in membership of the First Division for the coming sea-

The former Great Britain secondrower, Sonny Nickle, has rejoined St. Helens, the club that sacrificed him in order to sign Paul Newlove three years ago. Nickle, now 29, was one of three players who moved to Bradford in exchange for Newlove in November 1995. He has been released as a free agent with one year of his contract to run, so joins Ellery Hanley's squad for next season without costing a fee.

'Great white hope' Quarry dies aged 53 THE FORMER heavyweight boxer rounded by nieces and nephews. World Boxing Association crown,

Jerry Quarry, who twice fought Muhammad Ali and lost two title BY KIERAN DALEY bouts, died on Sunday at the age of 53 after a long descent into dementia brought on by repeated blows to the head, according to his niece. Quarry died at Twin Cities Hos-

pital in Templeton in central Calihospital fornia. He was admitted yesterday with pneumonia but his niece, Sheri Coolbagh, said that had heen brought on by dementia pugilistica, which is brain damage caused by hlows to the head.

to Alzheimer's disease, left Quarry to pneumonia - hrought on by dementia," Coolbagh said from the

fered for 14 years from dementia that had greatly worsened in the past three years. Almost to the end, she said he was able to recognise his family and Floyd Patterson in 1967.

sons and daughter, brothers and sisters and his mother.

Quarty, a Los Angeles native

He won his first 20 bouts before She added that Quarry had suf- losing a 10-round decision to Eddie Machen in 1966. Quarry bounced back to win his next 10 fights, twice defeating the former champion

who lived with relatives in Paso virtually helpless and in the care of Robles, fought 66 times, winning 53 his family. "He died of complications of them and 33 by knockout and was cynically promoted as a "great white

1968. Fourteen months later, he had another opportunity to win the belt, but was knocked out by Joe Frazier in the seventh round in New York. On 26 October, 1970, Quarry was Ali's first opponeot after his threeand a half-year exile and proved

easy pickings. Ali knocked him out in the third round on his road back to the championship and sent him to the canvas again in the seventh round on 27 June, 1972. After Ali was stripped of the

Obituary: Review, page 6

Humphreys fitness boost for Ulster

DAVID HUMPHREYS, the Irish RUGBY UNION international stand-off whose inspirational form has propelled Ulster into the semi-finals of the European Cup, has declared himself fit to face the tournament favourites, Stade Français, at Ravenhill on Sat-

Humphreys has not played since damaging his left shoulder in the closing seconds of the quarter-final victory over Toulouse last month, but he had cause for celebration yesterday. "Not only am I ready to play, but it's blowing a gale bere in Belfast," he said. "As long as it three would make the big occa-

BY CHRIS HEWETT

stays this way, we'll fancy our chances against the French." At one stage over the week-

end. Ulster were contemplating the loss of their entire firstchoice midfield; their two international centres, Jonathan Bell and Mark McCall, were considered even more doubtful than Humphreys.

Yesterday, however, Harry Williams and his coaching colleagues were hopeful that all sion. "Tve done very little on the physical front since Toulouse," Humphreys said, "but a game of this magnitude tends to accelerate your recovery.

It should be a wonderful occasion - we've already sold 17,000 tickets for the game and the crowd will be up around 20,000 on the day - and I think we have a genuine chance of victory. We've played some controlled, consistent rugby this season and when you mix that in with a hit of old-fashioned Irishness, you have something quite potent. I'm just relieved I'm going to be a part of it."

Another outside-half, albeit the former Wales playmaker longest-serving forwards, to a greybeard by comparison, is would remain in the squad. also relishing the prospect of an appearance on the big stage.

Paul Turner, the Saracens backs coach who turns 40 next ing so much recent time watchmonth, may play a role in tomorrow night's big London me a clearer idea of where Alain Penaud's continuing uations. Anyway, age is no bar-"dead leg" problems. Turner was given a run-out from the bench during Sunday's victory over Bedford and, even though Saracens yesterday signed Matt Jones, the London Irish stand-off, on a month's loan. there was every possibility that

"I still feel able to do the job,

if asked." Turner said yesterday. "Tve kept myself fit and spending from the sidelines has given derby with Wasps, thanks to we're going wrong in certain sitrier in my book."

Judging by the way Bath have performed these last six weeks or so, they could use one or two old heads in key positions. Understandably, Andy Robinson, their coach, has recalled Martin Haag, one of his

the second row for tonight's important match at Sale. Haag, who has been awarded a testimonial season by the ciub he joined a decade ago, replaces Nigel Redman, who was badly concussed during the early stages of last Saturday's humiliating defeat at Gloucester

Sale are in an almost equally desperate state, although few sides enjoy a comfortable ride against the Heywood Road threequarters. The Cheshire club's latest wing discovery, Steve Hanley has scored six tries in four Premiership outings and hastened the departure of his England club-mate, Tom Beim, into the bargain. According to the Sale sages, he is an international in waiting. "He can go all the way and he can do it early," said Jim Mallinder, the Sale captain, yesterday. "He is confident, arrogant even, but he's also very levelheaded. England have big backs and they have quick backs, but Steve has it all."

Gloucester, who travel to London Scottish in their eternal quest for a decent away victory, bring Dave Sims, the club captain, out of purdah for a rare appearance at lock Richard Hill, the Cherry and Whites coach, has repeatedly preferred Mark Cornwell to the more experienced England hand of late, but Cornwell twanged a groin muscle during his outstanding performance at Kingsholm on Saturday and sits out the trip to The Stoop. ■ Newcastle Falcons' championship-winning captain. Dean Ryan, yesterday left Kingston Park for the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two leaders, Bristol He said: "It will obviously be a huge wrench to leave Newcastie after so much success over the last three years."

Local prodigy Hewitt happy with the heat

THE AUSTRALIAN teenager Lleyton Hewitt upset Nicolas Kiefer 7-5 6-4 yesterday to launch his defence of the Adelaide men's hardcourt title he won from nowhere a year ago.

Hewitt, 17, won in his home town last year but conceded that he felt the burden of expectation on him when he faced the 35th-ranked German.

"I felt a fair bit of pressure going out there today," he said. admitting he faced a difficult progression, with the dual US Open winner and top seed Pat Rafter of Australia and former world No 1 Jim Courier among this year's lineup. A year ago, Hewitt heat Andre Agassi and countryman Jason Stoltenberg to become, at 550, the lowest ranked singles winner in ATP tour history, finishing the year ranked 113th.

Earlier, the former French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty, Stoltenberg and fellow Australians Michael Tebhutt and Scott Draper advanced to the second round as courtside temperature hovered at around 40 degrees Celsius for much of the day. Hrbaty celebrated his 21st birthday with a 4-6 6-1 7-5 upset of the eighth seed, Mar-

iano Puerta of Argentina. As a balmy evening brought some reliel Sweden's Thoma Enovist, rejuvenated after a foot Pitkowski, a 6-3 6-2 winner over injury cut short his 1998 season. Australia's Alicia Molik.

fought back from a disappointing first set to beat the Australian Mark Woodforde 0-6 6-4 6-4.

The intense heat was forecast to continue today when Rafter meets Japan's Takao Suzuki and Courier plays Slava Dosedel, of the Czech Republic. Rafter's hopes of rising from fourth to No 1 this year were boosted at the weekend when the current incumbent, Pete Sampras, pulled out of the Australian Open.

Stoltenberg overwhelmed Arnaud Di Pasquale of France in the heat to win 6-1 6-4 but predicted a hright future for the French teenager, who jumped more than 500 places to 81st in 1998. "I think he is a player we will see a lot of," Stoltenberg said. Draper had a tougher battle against the American Justin Gimelstoh before forcing the second set to a tie-break and then winning, 3-6 7-6 6-3.

The defending champlon Ai Sugiyama of Japan survived a tough test in the first round of the Australian women's hardcourt championships. Sugiyama, the fourth seed, proved too strong for Corina Morariu of the United States, winning 6-2 6-7 6-3 at the Hope Island club on Queensland's Gold Coast. She next faces France's Sarah



Crew use shirts to plug leak

TEAM NEW ZEALAND sailors tore off their shirts and formed a bucket brigade to save their America's Cup-winning boat from sinking in the Hauraki Gulf yesterday.

Black Magic II began taking on water a few miles north of Rangitoto Island on Monday af- the hole to try to plug it up." ternoon after her rudder broke loose. The crew of the boat, one of the two in which New Zealand won the Cup in 1995, heard a bang and rushed below deck finding themselves knee-deep in water. The Team New Zealand designer Tom Schnackenberg who was on board, said it was all hands below deck to stop the

boat from going under.

BY STUART ALEXANDER

"The water was coming in pretty fast," he said. "The boys took their shirts off and we were chucking them around

going and we were using our drink pump, which makes fresh water, to try to empty it out." The local coastguard came

"We had the bucket brigade

to the boat's rescue with three larger pumps and the Auckland police launch Deodar arrived with another

"If we hadn't been able to stop the water coming in, we would

berg said. "If the hull was weaker around the rudder we would

have been in a lot more trouble." Black Magic II, or NZL38, had been racing against the other black boat, NZL32, Black Magic I, when it hit trouble. A crewman, Barry McKay said no one was sure what had happened. Three of the crew dived into the sea and eventually re-

moved the broken rudder. "There's a possibility that we hit something," McKay said. "We couldn't move the boat because the rudder was flopping around, damaging the bottom

of the boat" Once the seawater was

back to the America's Cup village at the Viaduct Basin by Team New Zealand towboats. Black Magic II is likely to be out of the water for repairs for the next two days, team officials

said The challenger series for the America's Cup starts in October, carrying through to the finals next January and February.

With the Australian team winning a protest over their British rivals after finishing tied for the international series at Sandringham Yacht Club in Melbourne, the prize for the 14foot Skiffs went turn and turn

about to the two countries.

eaged out Britain B in the struggle for third and fourth places. The event is one of 16 world

championships heing run around Melbourne harbour over the next two weeks, seven of them for the Olympic classes. with nearly 2,000 sailors from around the world competing.

In Auckland, the United States-based Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Mouligne, won the 50-foot Class II second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town. He beat not only Britain's Mike Garside into second place but also finished ahead of Josh Hall, who has yet to finish in his new Class I 60-footer Gartmore.

Acclaim eludes victor **Taylor**

BY JOHN OAKLEY

PHIL TAYLOR won his seventh world title when he carried off the Skol PDC Championship for the fifth year in a row at Purfleet, Essex. Yet for most darts players in this country the 38year-old from Stoke, who beat the North Cheam newsagent Peter Manley 6-2 in the final on Sunday night, will never get quite the praise that is due to him until he wins the Embassy at Frimley Green again.

Taylor won the Embassy, the world's richest tournament, in both 1990 and 1992, but a year later became one of 16 professionals who broke away from the British Darts Organisation, the ruling body, to form what is now known as the Professional Darts Corporation.

The breakaway group included seven world champions in John Lowe, Eric Bristow, Jocky Wilson, Keith Deller, Boh Anderson, Dennis Priestley and Taylor, and for a couple of years at least were undoubtedly superior to the players they had left behind. However, Wilson has now retired. Bristow is only a shadow of the player he once was and Deller, Anderson and Priestley are not playing quite as well as they did. Only the phenomenal Taylor and Lowe are still playing outstanding darts. Other players. such as Rod Harrington, Shayne Burgess, Peter Evison. Alan Warriner and Peter Manley have come to the fore in recent years, but the general standard of play at the Skol event has been lower than the Embassy for the past five years.

Only eight players in the 32strong Skol field achieved an average of more than 30 per dart in one or more of their matches at Purfleet last week. Thirteen of the players did not break a 27 average in the first round with Bristow, at 17.79, having the lowest ever seen at either world championship. In contrast, 13 of the first 18 players to compete in the Embassy first round at the weekend hroke the 30 target.

That is why many people would like to see Taylor have one more crack at the Embassy title, where he would face stiffer competition. Unfortunately under the present rules agreed by the BDO and PDC, any player reaching the second round of either world championship is not eligible for the reverse championship next year That means Taylor will have no chance of competing in the Embassy in 2000 unless the rules are changed and the two championships no longer overlap.

If the two events were staged at different times. Tavlor could be world champion twice in the same year if he maintains his present form.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

Maier still the one to beat No show Stevens

mined not to lose his appetite for Alpine skiing when the men's World Cup circuit resumes this week. Sandrine Testud of France upstages Spain's Arantza The Austrian enters 1999 the Sanchez Vicario in the Hopman Cup yesterday way he started 1998, as the

overall leader. The double Olympic gold medallist has a 103-point margin over the Norwegian Lasse Kius. Maier aims to outclass his rivals in Kranjska Gora, where a giant slalom opens the year's competition today. The Slovenian resort close to the Austrian border also hosts a slalom tomorrow. "You can lose your enjoy-

HERMANN MAIER is deter-

schedule is so tight." Maier said. Maier said his shaky form at the start of the season was be-

FOOTBALL

NORTHERN SECTION

SECOND ROUND

Bournemouth v Petrhorough (7.45)
Brighton v Milliwall (7.45)
Brighton v Milliwall (7.45)
Exercise V Southend (7.45)
Luton v Walsall (7.45)
Luton v Walsall (7.45)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SECOND-ROUND REPLAY

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v Com-bined Services (at Burton Albian FC). RYMAN LEAGUE Presider Chalsies: Dui-wich v Walton & Hersham, Second Diri-

Darlington v Chesterfield (7.45) Halifax v York (7.45)

Halifox v York (7.45)
Hull v Wresham
Lincoln City v Marisfield (7.45)
Rochdale v Stoke (7.45)
Wigan v Scarborough (7.45)
SOUTHERN SECTION
SECOND ROCHED

Swansea v Gillingham (7.45) . Torquay v Fulham (7.15) Wycombe v Brentford (7.45) ...

Stirling Albiga v Montrose ..

slog: Banstead v Thame. Ist

7.30 unless stated WINDSCREERS SHIELD

ment of the sport when the

performances improved when he stopped thinking about results and resorted to his normal attacking style. With four wins in three disciplines, Maier has one more victory than at the same stage last year and his favourite races lie ahead.

"January was always my strongest month, even last year when it all really kicked-off for me in January," he said. "I love competing in front of bome crowds and the bulk of Austrian races are vet to come. Maybe Kius has already given up on the overall title by missing Bormio."

Kjus conceded his overall cause be was too cautious. His super-G at Innshruck when for a recurring knee injury.

Maier led a record Austrian sweep of the top nine places. Flu forced the Norwegian to

miss a downhill in Bormio, Italy, on 29 December, which Maier clinched ahead of six team-mates. Tough competition is expected from two other giant sialom winners, Austria's Stephan Eberharter and Switzerland's Michael von

Sialom specialists have a busy schedule with tomorrow's race in Slovenia followed by a floodlit event the next day in Schladming, Austria. The de-fending slalom champion, Thomas Sykora, plans to make his first appearance of the season in Kranjska Gora after unlead before Christmas in a dergoing surgery in November

KIRK STEVENS, the Canadian who returned to the game last summer after a five-season absence, failed to turn up for his first qualifying match of the new

It is understood Stevens, who had been due to play Wayne Saidler yesterday in the first round of the Regal Scottish Masters, fell victim to airport closures in Canada, which has been swept by beavy snowstorms. Saidler was given a walk-over

The 40-year-old, best known for his televised maximum break at the 1984 Benson and Hedges Masters, won only one match at the Plymouth qualifiers, but had been expected to play in yesterday's match, as well as the qualifiers for the

SNOOKER British Open and Embassy World Championship.

His fellow Canadian Jim Wych supports the snow theory for Stevens' absence. "He had been practising hard and was looking forward to returning to the UK," Wych said. "I don't know which airports were closed at the weekend but what I do know is the fact that bere in the Toronto area, we have just experienced the worst snowfall for a decade with two-and-a-half feet falling between Saturday afternoon and Sunday."

Stevens, who lives in Toronto, is due to play Darren Limburg on Thursday in the first round of the British Open qualifying tournament.

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Arsenal v Liverpool . Blackburn v Leeds ... 4 Everton v Leicester ... 5 Middlesbrough v Aston Villa 6 Newcastle v Chelsea 7 Sheffield Wed v Tortenham ...

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE 10 Birmingham v Port Vale

11 Creme v Norwich
12 Huddersfield v Bury
13 Ipswich v Grimsby
14 Oxford Urd v Bristol Cry
15 OPR v Sunderland
16 Stockport v Bradford
17 Swindan v Sheffield Urd
18 Watford v Portsmouth
19 West Brom v Barnsley
Friday: Trannere v Wolves.
Bolton v Crystal Palace.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION 20 Blackpool v Man City 21 Bristol Rovers v Burnley .

24 Lincoln City v Bournemo 25 Luton v Wycombe 26 Miliwali v Wigan 45 Forfar v Cl<u>y</u>de... As Inverses CT v Arbroath

Af Inverses CT v Arbroath

1 AT Lidingston v East Fife

1 AB Partick v Alioa

A9 Stirling v Oucen of the South

1 Scottish League Third Dhrision: Berwick

V Ross County, Cowdenbeath v Brechin:
East Stirling v Dumbarton; Montrose v Albion; Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir. 27 Notes County v Oldham 27 Notes County v Oldham 28 Reading v Wresham 29 Stoke v Northampton 30 Walsall v Gillingham 31 York v Preston

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

Ret on composs: Mansfield v Brentford Rochdale v Plymouth: Scurthorpe shrewsbury, Southend v Scarborough,

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Clydebank v Ayr Raith v Falkirk "

TEN HOMES: Birmingham v Port Vale: Huddersfield v Bury. Watford v Portsmouth, Pulham v MacClesfield Brighton v Carlisle; Cardiff v Hartlepool; Airdite v Mocton; Livingston v East Fite; Partick v Alioa; Stirling v Queen of the Courth. FTVE AWAYS: Clydebank v Ayr: Raich v Falkirk; St Mirren v Hibernian; Stranraer v Hamilton; Forfar v Clyde. FOUR DRAWS: Everton v Leicester,

Middlesbrough v Aston Villa; Newcastle v Chelsea: Sheff Wed v Tottenham.

Pools forecast selections by Ian Davies Three of last week's four draws came up at treble fixed odds with bookmakers of 33-1. The fourth selection, Morton v Sc

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Christy, Vandanel Trophy third round: Tooting & Mitcham v Metropolitan Police, UNISOND LEAGUE CUP Second round replay: Nucknall v Emiley, Unifilla First Division Cup second round: Eastwood Dinesion Cup second round: Eastwood Rown v Bradford PA. Third yound: Affreton

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP Seco round: Bedworth Utd v Tarnworth. Sec-ond round replay; Witney v Bath. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE PREmier Division: Deal v Herne Bay; Slade Green v Ramsgate; Tunbridge Wells v VCD

Athletic.

UHLSPORT LEAGUE CUP Second round replay: Bourne v Boston Town.

UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Broadbridge Hearth v Readmit; Chichester v Selsey; Langney Sports v Hallsham; Littlehampton v Horsham YMCA; Pagham v East Preston.

NORTH WESTERN TRAIRS LEAGUE First Divisions North Wastern Chichester Canada. First Division: Namewich v Atherton Col-lieries: Cheagle v Mossley, Maine Road v

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP Taird round Arnold v Harrogate Rail-way, Buxton v North Ferrity, Ossett Town v Halfam Selby v Pontefract: Thack-ley v Garforth. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bourne

PEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Werboys v Fakenham (7.45).

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Divisions Markev Bedfington Terriers; South Shields v Morpeth.

THE THIES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Samet v Hartlepool: Sounthorpe Utd v Portsmouth (7.0).

PONTHS LEAGUE Premier Division: Utd-server (7.0).

PONTHS LEAGUE Premier Division: Utd-server (7.0).

Freston v Everton (7.15) (at Charley FC).

Freston v Everton (7.15) (at Charley FC).

Second Division: Stadford City v York (7.0); Rotherham v Blackpool (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Nuddersfield (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION PEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE PR

RUGBY UNION

OTHER SPORTS WELS: World Indoor Championsh trees Leisure Centre, Great Yarmou (Potter's Leisure Centure, Great authorising DARTS: Embassy World Championship (Lakeside Country Cuts. Frimey Green). SPOORER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish British Open, World Championship (Northey Castle, Blackpool).

Mirren, was postponed (the pools panel rated it a no score draw).



France, Sweden

victory in the mixed doubles,

with the Swedes prevailing 7-6,

Gambill was unhappy at the

officiating, complaining that

one call in the tie-break was,

"the worst I've ever seen". But

there was another problem,

and the real reason the Amer-

icans lost. "In the second set I

double-faulted three times in

one game, and you can't do that

break for 5-4, and Biorkman

served out for the match. It was

the first time Bjorkman had

played mixed doubles, but he

spent some time practising

and discussing tactics with

Carlsson, and it paid off. Their

plan was for Bjorkman to

crouch low at the net every time

Carlsson served and to leap up

and knock off a winning volley.

at the net." Gambill said. "He

was in the middle of the court

and it was really hard knowing

The only cloud on Bjork-

man's horizon is a problem

where to hit the return."

with his right hamstring.

"Jonas was definitely the key

That gave the Swedes a

and win a match," he said.

upset the odds

QUALIFIERS FRANCE caused

the second upset of the day at

the Hooman Cup mixed teams

tournament when they beat

top seeds Spain 2-1 in Perth yes-

terday. France's pairing of Guil-

laume Raoux and Sandrine

Testud upstaged Carlos Mova

and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

7-5, 7-5 in the mixed doubles to

the upper hand from the outset

when she overcame a sluggish

Sanchez-Vicario, 6-1, 6-3. Moya,

despite suffering from a cold,

had beaten a determined Raoux

Earlier, Sweden pulled off a

7-6, 2-6, 6-3 in an enthralling

surprise victory over the sec-

ond-seeded United States team

of Lindsay Davenport and Jan-

Michael Gambill. The Ameri-

cans took a 1-0 lead when

Davenport thrashed Asa Caris-

son 6-2, 6-0, but that advantage

was quickly erased by the world

No 4. Jonas Bjorkman, who

thrives on a heavy schedule,

then piloted the underdogs to

Biorkman, a player who

heat Gambill 6-2, 6-4.

match to level the scores.

Testud ensured France held

ie Cherry and White has repeatedly by experienced England
of late, but Corned ed a groin muscle diffe standing performance t the trip to The Slop veastle Falcons chan ip-winning captain be yesterday left Kingh or the Allied Dunbar h up Two leaders, Brist d: "It will obviously be rench to leave News ar so much success on it three years

cclaim udes ctor aylor

DARTS

DHN OAKLEY TAYLOR WOR has spreng title when no carreig ! ol PDC Championsing th year in a row as he Essex, Ye: for more es in this countrities ald from Stoke, wholes orth Cheam nearsta Manley 6-2 in the incl. ay night and there the praise that there's ntil he wins the Embiga miey Green again ylor won - Ember ortifs mehes: 1-1727-2 h 1990 and 1150 boxes became one it don't is who error and to se British Date (come)

the rule: 1 pom is now know to the the mai Darie 📑 🚊 🕬 le breust of the ded seven in this Mohn Lut - Ett. Stra / Wilson: No. 11 Deserbit rson. Dennis Frank Paylon and the support ratican - course dor to the bullet make rehind now retire English a shad w was and I am a direct 23 Well as 11 - 14 14 phenomia. Take at

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I CHANS

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BY GREG WOOD THIS SATURDAY'S renewal of the Ladbroke Hurdle may be the 13th since the race was devised, but it seems unlikely that even the most superstitious of punters will be deterred from their annual attempt to back the winner, quite possibly for the very first time. Thirty-two runners remained in the contest after

yesterday's five-day declaration stage, of which a maximum of 30 can go to post for the twomile melée around Leopardstown's tight inside track. The ground on Saturday will at least be fresh, but it is likely to be heavy too, which is a description that Irish clerks of the course generally use only when the hurdles are floating out of RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: La Plazza (Lingfield 2.15) NB: Nothing Doing (Lingfield 1.15)

the front gate. Since it is always run at top speed from flagfall, this year's Ladbroke will take even more winning than usual.

It seemed to be tempting providence, then, when the trainer of one of the leading fancies vesterday dispensed with the standard, non-committal expressions of hope and forecast that her runner has "a big chance" on Saturday. Jessica Harrington, what's more, knows what is required, having won the Ladbroke three years ago with Dance Beat. Her representative this time is Slaney Native, and if punters take his trainer at her word, the 14-1 offered by several hookies is un-

likely to last long this morning. Slaney Native is in his novice season - as was Dance Beat but his third place behind Joe Mac and Colonel Yeager, two of the best young hurdlers in Ireland, at Leopardstown's Christmas meeting implied that 10st 4lb is unlikely to hamper him this weekend.

"I felt that was a good Lad-



Swelling faith in Slaney

Advocat (left), pictured winning at Leopardstown, is the favourite for the Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle at the same track on Saturday

broke trial," Mrs Harrington said yesterday. "He was still going well on the turn for home and I thought for a moment he might spring a surprise over the leading pair. If there is a fastrun race and Slaney Native is up with the pace then be could bring me my second Ladbroke. I am very hopeful and if I didn't think he had a big chance I wouldn't be running him."

In the Ladbroke, every horse is a danger, but the market seems to think that Advocat, trained by Noel Meade, has the best chance of all. Advocat, who finished second to Blowing Wind in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham and fifth in the

Ladbroke last year, has been at the top of the betting since the weights were framed, having won with a great deal in hand on his return at Thurles last month. He was cut from 9-1 to 7-1 by Coral yesterday.

Impulsive Dream, who start-

ed this season in novice chases, is another runner to attract good money, hut Polar Pros-pect, the leading British challenger, drifted yesterday when the 11 horses above him in the handicap were removed. The weights rose by 15lb as a result, leaving Philip Hobbs's runner with top weight of 11st 12lb.

The potential British chal-

Realm, also trained by Hobbs, Decoupage (Charlie Egerton), New Inn (Steve Gollings) and Once More For Luck (Mary Reveley: Both Decoupage and Once More For Luck are doubtful runners, however, as a result of the heavy ground and an unexpectedly high racing weight

respectively. The Ladbroke is the most valuable handicap hurdle of the year in Ireland, but there was a reminder yesterday that the most richly rewarded event anywhere on the planet is now less than three months away. The Godolphin operation certainly needs no reminding lenge is completed by Sadler's about the Dubai World Cup,

which will take place on their doorstep on 28 March, and their search for a horse to go one place better than Swain, last year's runner-up, has now extended to South America.

Lignify, a five-year-old mare who won a Group One race over 12 furlongs in her native Argentina last year, is the latest recruit to the royal blue silks and is now on her way to Dubai. There she will join other recent acquisitions including High-Rise, last year's Derby winner, Xaar and Saratoga Springs, as well as Comeonmom and Worldly Manner, both of whom were bought from the United

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FIR	S 1	S	H	M C	
LING	FI	ELC	Э.	15	
Horse	C	Н	L	8	T
Roisin Splendou	41	41	9-2	4-1	41
Dephne's Doll	7-1	6-7	7-1	15-2	6-1
Alig Dancer	7-1	6-1	11-2	6 -1	6-1
Davis Rock	6-1	7:1	B-1	7-1	8-1
Ambifous	9-1	7:1	7:1	9-1	8-1
Raspherry Sance	7-1	7-1	13-2	13-2	9-1
Scotland Bay	9-1	B-1	10-1	52	9-1
Le Polite Flore.	12-1	10-1	7 4-1	9-1	8-1
Step On Degas	14-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	141
Tencred Times	14-1	16-1	12-1	16-1	01
L'Estable Flourie	14-1	20-1	14-1	16-1	E -1
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Out Like Magic 14-1 20-1 16-1 16-1 12-1 Miss Dangerous 334 334 334 334 25-1 Each-way, a custor the ocids, places 1, 2, 3

C Corel H Wilson Hill, L Lachholess S Sterley, T Total

LINGFIELD

12.45 Delight Of Dawn 2.45 High Noon 3.1S Raspberry Sauce 3.45 Orbital Star 1.1S Prix De Clermont 1.45 Krystal Mex (nb) 2.15-LA PIAZZA (nap): ...

GOING: Standard, STALLS, 51 & Yn outside; remainder inside

STALLS, 51.6 'In butside; remainder inside
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of fown on B2028, Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £15, Family Enclosure £0. CAR PARK: Club £3; rest free, EVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: G I Moore 63-625 (133%), R Hannon 47-357 (132%), M Johnston 44-260 (163%), Miss G Kellerway 41-281 (146%), Lord Huntingdon 37-165 (20%), LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 72-57t (125%), J Weaver 68-307 (221%), S Sanders 65-563 (115%), R Cochrane 52-322 (161%), S Whitmorth 51-564 (14%),

EAVOIRTITES: 69-2065 (33 4%).

FAVOURITES: 690-2065 (334%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Over Keen (12.45), English Lady (14.5), Barr Bescon (2.15),
Riddle (2.15). Contentment (2.45), Surpress Cara (2.45). La Petite Fismache (315).

į	1	2.45	BARRY DENNIS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,750 added 1m Penalty Value £1,767
ı	_		
ı	1	46/40-	FESTIVAL FLYER (84) (Mrs J Root) Miss G Kelleway 4 10 9 W Ryan 4
ì	2	03133-	
Į	3	100000-	KAFIL (USA) (17) (CD) (Exors of late M R Pascall) J Bridger 59 5 G Berdwell 9
í	ă.	60420-	
	5	03600-	BATAAN (41) (D) (Ecune De La Source) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 8 8 13 A Micholite (5) 9
ľ	ē	32020-	SAND HAWK (24) (J. C Fretwell) D Step 4 9 13 A Clark :
Ì	7	04040-	HAMAR STORM (27) (CD) (Ms R Wheeler) D Firench Davis 11 98
l	8	40004-	FAR-50-LA (5) (Ars L Jewell) Mrs L Jewell 488 R Price :
ſ	8	41003-	DELIGHT OF DAWN (10) (D) (D Engreering) E Wheeler 7 8 4 S Carson (7) 11 &

Figs. 16-1 Ealase, Homestead, 14-1 Kaff, 16-1 others
1998. Square Mile Miss 5 7 22 N Cariste 6-1 (N Berry) drawn (5) 9 ran
FORM GUIDE
Fastival Flyer: First run since teaving Robert Armstrong and AW debut. Close 7th on return from a 3-month tay-off at Lejoester (10), glist in October and tough tests it the weights (only 1 tils lower than turl mark), though with have galloped on this surface Starry Scottats. Won at Wolverhampton (9th in November: Runs off a 5th higher mark, but has run I wo respectable races since then and should not be far away.
Kaffit Won on AW (7th here in October and has dropped 8th following disappointing efforts. Lost place at hathway when 10th of 12 here last month and one to rule out Over Keen: Lighthy-raced maiden, who finished 2nd to Rispiperry Sauce on her AW debut over C/D last month. Did not confirm that promise at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, but birrivered for the first time here.

Battaen: Belgian raider, won there in May, and led until headed 3f out when 8th to Byzardium here (10th in November. Hard to fancy on that effort.

Sand Hawlic Molden hendicapper, put up his best performance on the AW when 2nd to Holy Smoke (Concer Arall 13th) at Southwell ((m) in November. Soon out-paced when 9th of 2 at Wolverhampton (m) next time has when 9th of 2 at Wolverhampton (m) next time has been a money-epinner on the AW, though has not won since recording his 5th success here in a claimer over this trip taxt January. Well treated on past form, but stable have gone over 5 months without a Flat winner Fan-So-La: is now with his 4th trainer (won over 71 at Folkestone for Roband O'Sull-and in July.) Seems of little account on the AW and lost buch 4t out when last of 4 (beaten 30 lengths) behind Castles Burning here (10t) taxt week Delight Of Dawm: Slowly away on AW debut in November, lept on to firsh 3rd at Wolverhampton (m) on Boxing Day, High draw against him, though well handicapped on his surface. The past watched until showing more spatcle (m) last month. Has been dropped 7th, but best watch

VERDICT: Over Keen failed to confirm the promise he showed here on his all-weather debut at Wolverhampton on Bosong Day and may be more suited by this surface. Sharp Sectich is in good form at the moment, but in an open looking event it may be worth taking a chance with DELIGHT OF DAWN, despite his poor draw, he is well frendicapped on his turf form and put up an improved affort on his sec-

ı	<i>-</i> -		LINGFIELD PARK EXHIBITION HALL SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 5f Penalty Value £1,901
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ı	l 1	4030-	SLISTHEAM (JIU) [13] [MAZDENS CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE
ı	2	20020-	SLIPSTREAM (J10) (D) (Mattrews Breading) G McCourt 5 10 0
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j	18	3675	EVEZIO RUFO (14) (CD) (T Clarke) N Littmatien 7 8 8 T G McLaughlin 5 8
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1	-	60306-	FILLIE ANCHOR (20) (D R Wellcome) A Carrol 4 8 3

FORM GUIDE

Slipetneam: Unplaced in 2 outings over hurdes since joining Graham McCourt from Rae Guest. First run on AW since finishing 8th of 10 to Feel Free at Wolverhampton Rae Guest. First run on AW since finishing 8th of 10 to Feet Pres at Wolverhampton (r00) in March.

Rowlandsona Chairra: Successful 4 times here (3 over 1m), but stays farther now and was beaten 5 lengths when 2nd to Cossiguard Hero over CrD in June, is 7th better off and has had 3 runs over jumps this season.

Stangfield Lift: Returns after a 3-month leyoff and has won 6 times on the AW at distances up to 12th However, has yet to win off a mark as high as this and stable have not had a Flat winner for over 5 months.

Cry For Freedom: Won a setting hendicap at Brighton in October, but has shown little on her 2 outnings on the AW and was beaten 33 lengths when 8th of 10 behind is length at Wolverhampton last month. Jertab at Wolverhampton last month. Jertab at Wolverhampton last month.

Jertab at Wolverhampton in Strong a setting hundle at Falkenham in October. Firshed last of 12 over hundles at the run and has not run since Eversio Butfor is on a long losing sequence as the has run 20 times after winning at Eversio Butfor is on a long losing sequence as the has run 20 times after winning at Southwell (12f) in February. Unable to quickes to the last not file of the langthing of Shanghal Lil at Wolverhampton (12f) in June, but is 25th better off

Latin Bay: Inconsistent handicapper for Peter Harns (won once from 15 outnigs), but came in for some support on his AW debut for his new yard when 6th to Steame Sik here (12f) test Finday. Will have to Improve on thet performance Constiguants Here: Salling handicapper, who was having his first outing since August when talled-off fast of 9 behind Royal Roulette here (2m) last week. Not well

handicapped and will surely need this run Nothing Doing: Has not run on the Flet (selling hendicapper) since August 1997 and was rejuctant to race and left 30 lengths when tailed off over hurdies at Huntingdon ass moran Prix De Clermont: On an 11 ib lower murk than he won oil at Woverhampton in 1997. Showed a return to form when 3rd at Southwell (12) last time albue Anchorr Formerly trained by Mary Roveley (won over 1m3) for her at South-well in February), but hes disappointed on both runs on the AW for his new yard who

Oween Of Tides: Maden handicapper, has yet to reach the frame in 6 outings and weakened 4f out on her AW debut over C/D last month when 7th to Waasef with

Tiggy Shano 9th
Tiggy Shano: Selling handicapper, still a maden after 12 outings and dropped back
after 71 when 9th to Weaser over C/D last time after 71 when 9th to Wassef over C/D last time Hoppit: Unpleased in 8 outings on the First and AW and had no chance in the final 57 when last of 7 to Mystagogue here (12h on Saturday

VERDICT: PRIX DE CLERMONT showed something of a revival when third at Southwal in November, He has since finished unplaced over hurdes, but does not n to stay two miles and should appreciate the return to this low grade.

1.45	TRAFALGAR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) added 6f Penalty Value E2,608	£3,500
000	SPEEDY CLASSIC (15) (CD) (South Wales Supplies) M Heaton-Elfe to 9 11 BEST OF OUR DAYS (122) (C) IE De La Soucei A Vandertenghan (Bel) 48 10 A N	A Clerk 2

DO-	SPEEDY CLASSIC (15) (CD) (South Wales Supplies) M Heaton-Ellis 10 8 11 A Clark :
E00-	BEST OF OUR DAYS (122) (C) IE De La Source) A Vanderberghen (Be) 48 TO A Nicholie (5)
036-	KRYSTAL MAX (15) (CD) (Calcield Nurseries) T D Barron 8 8 to Kimberley Hart (5)
	CAMED (7) (Park Farm Racing) M Charmon 4 9 7
	FRIENDLY BRAYE (USA) (3) (C) (D) (Tempus Fugit) G Keleway 988 Dane O'Nolli :
008	ENGLISH LADY (42) (English Lady Classics) M Haynes 481
	HEAVENLY MISS (84) (C) (D) (Travor Michall) J Bridger 5 8 t3 S Whitmorth
	-7 declared -

BETTING: 5-4 Speedy Classic, 6-4 Krystal Mar, 13-2 Priendily Brave, 12-1 Best Of Our Days, 14-1 Carooo, 16-1 Howenly Miles, 25-1 English Lady 1996: Double Oscar 5 9 13 Alex Gresves 11-4 (D Nicholts) drawn (6) 9 ren

FORM GUIDE

Speedy Classic: Winner 9 times here and first-rate chance on last winter's form. Well below best afterwards, but still comfortably won clearner here in November Bost Of Our Dayle: Fair sprinter tast year for Chris Thomton, winner at this course twice in Junuary. Plenty to find if Speedy Classic and Krystal Max run to form Krystal Max: Won two handicaps here and one at Southwell early in 4986. Off course 8 months. Below form on three outings since but fair effort on latest Camero: Sprint maiden. Second in desailed states at Southwell in July. Seventh of to in handicap here latest start, after 4-month break. Stiff task at these weights Friendly Braive: An intrequent winner but good efforts in handicaps here last four starts, third to Acid Test on Soltarday. Should again be placed English Lady: Showed some ability last May/June, but not much afterwards. Eighth of 10 in handicap and earth of 9 in maiden on sand here last two outings Heavendy Milas: Without a win aince December 1998, tried in plenty of claimers in the interm. Has not run on the all-weather for long time, but used to act on it VERDICT!: On form, this should be won by either the ten-year-old Speedy Clas-FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: On form, this should be won by either the ten-year-old Speedy Clas-alc or KRYSTAL MAX, both of whom are at home on this track. This winter's per-formances suggest the Krystal Mox is the more Relly to run near his best. Friendily Brave is the one to take advantage if the form horses both run badly.

2	.15	VICTORY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLAS F) £2,750 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £2,087
1	062-	BARR BEACON (15) (Thorps Vernor) T Miles 99 L Carter 7
2	52350-	PISCES LAD ACT AL Palvey & Mr G Williamson) S Dow 9 0
3	05005-	PISCES LAD (41) (J Falvey & Mr G Williamson) S Dow 9 0
ā		TAWN AGAIN (B Eleviorit) TD Barron 90
5	00-	VENIKA VITESSE (18) (Kevin Shaw) T D Barron 9 0
ā	00-	DIVA D'ARGERT (46) (D Lancaser-Smith) W Mur 8 9Martin Dwyer
7	2-	LA PIAZZA (6) Lichy Farmers Recinc) W Haggas 88
8	00006-	REDDLE (15) (P.D. Evens) P.Evens 88
-		-8 declared

BETTING: 2-1 Le Piezza, 3-1 Berr Bencoo, 4-1 Pieces Lad, 8-1 Riddle, 10-1 Reinbow Romao, Time Agein, 16-1 Verillo Vitesea, 20-1 Dive D'Argent 1988: Best Of Our Days 3 8 0 Dyan McKeown 5-4 Ew (C Thornton) drawn (5) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Bart Beacon: Mid-div-sion in sprint maidens at Locaster and Wolverhampton, off 6 months in between, 11/4 lengths second to of 7 to Kayo Gee over this course and distance latest start makes him one for the short-list. Binkered first time Places Lad: Form pick on 5f turi efforts last summer. Off course over 4 months before being well beaton from high draw here in November on all-weather debut Rainbow Romson: Something to find on form, unproven on all-weather debut Rainbow Romson: Something to find on form, unproven on all-weather (one poor run at Southwell) and there are further big doubts with this first stiempt at 5f Tawn Again: Debut appearance for this gelding by miler Then Again out of a fairly useful 2yo sprint winner with has had two winners from three previous foats. Wentila Vitesser: By Pussance out of a dam who slaved in. No form carelevities. Venika Viteaze; By Pulssance out of a dam who stayed 'm. No form credentials after last months afforts over 6f at Wolverhampton and 7f at Southwell etter lest morrors anons over of at venetrempted and n as Southweil Divis D'Argent Hes a decent sprinting pedigree. No form in two sprint events at South-weil in November, 11th of 15 in a seller on second occasion La Piazza: 10:00-guinea Polieh Patriot filly. 11-2, 8 lengths second of 8 to Prince Prospect in maiden here last week. Progress would make her the one to best Riddle: Modest debut form but very little since, including in claimers and in visor VERDICT: Tawm Again is an unknown quantity and should be noted in the bet-ting. Without him, those to concentrate on are Barr Beacon, La Plazza and PISCES LAD. The last-named looked above everage on several of his runs test summer and is the form salection, but La Plazza shaped well in a 6ir race last week and should

2.45 BARRY DENNIS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) \$2,750

	_		added IIII remarky value 21,757
	1	1004-	HARPOON LOUIE (39) (CD) (Earns de la Source) A Vandartrangtien (Bel) 9812_S Wateroot
	2	0500-3	MUTANADETH (3) (D) (K G Rections) D Show 588
	3	00336-	CAVERSFIELD (45) (William J Kelly) R Harmon 488
	4	00010-	MOR'S DEED (7) (C) (P D Evans) P Evans 6 8 3
	5	00641-	HIGH MOON (10) (D) (Supreme Racing Ltd) N Littmoden 4 6 t3 T G MeLaughlin
	8	06000	CONTENTMENT (17) (Bandleed Aghinic) Mee G Kellowey 5 8 m P Fredericks (7) 4
•	7 .	15530	SQUARE MILE MISS (158) (CD) (P Rawson) N Berry 8 8 7
	8	00200	MRS MIDDLE (102) (Michael Hif) D Chapman 4.65
	9		SURPRESA CARA (17) (Miss Jule Reeves) B Johnson 4 8 4
	10	00050-	MISTER MUNINELLY (17) (D) (Come Racing List) J Jenkins 8 8 1
	13	53000-	CLONCE (41) (D) (McKernari/Chiell) R Ingram 5 9 9
	12	00000	PIPPAS PRIDE (15) (Mrs Anthony Victors) M Fetherston-Godley 4 7 13 F Norton
•			12 declared
	PETT	7840-7-4	USAN NAMA 5.1 Matcharleth & 1 County State 7-1 from Basel R.1 Contactment 12

son Louie, Squera Mile Miss, Surpress Cara, 14-1 others FORM GUIDE

Harpoon Louis: Favourits, won 8-runner seller over course and distance in December 1997. Won twice in Belgium before creditable fourth here in November 1997, Won twice in Belgium before creditable fourth here in November Inhabitacidatis: Fak all-weather form from 71 to 91 ask white: First run since September when 8 lengths third of 15 at Southwell on Saturday, Usually binkared Coverreledit: Chances on never-dungerous third of 15 over 71 (stays tm) here on all-weather debut in November, but disappointing at Wolverhampton later in month

Nor's Deed: Slays Im, Won clarmer and seller (in Decamber) over 71 at this all-wealther course last year. Overall, however, he ran far more poor races than good.
High Noon: Well treated, won Im Wolverhampton hendicap 10 days ago by 2 lengths.
Sib higher hear Shaped well here when non-stayer at final time before.
Contentment: Has won only one of 22 starts, in June 1997, inconsistent since and
below best on this all-wealther track, seventh of 11 over 71 in December.
Square Mile Miles: I'm and 71 winner here last January. Rather disappointing on her
four runs afterwards, and not seen after July. Well bested if back to form.
Miles Milddier, Al-weether debut, Second last year in a 1m claimer and a 1m21 handleap, but registered far more poor performances. Unraced since September.
Surpress Carra: Looks to have a very stirf task judged on her fifth in a 71 seller and
nimt in 1m21 handicap (only 5to lover here) on this task last two starts.
Mister Munnelly: Easily best 1998 nin when second off 53 over motion run on reappearance. Off 37 now, chance on one of his three runs on sand this writer.
Clonde: Won at Folkestone (6) in April and Kempton in August, Has not always impessance. Our art folkestone (6) in April and Kempton in August. Has not always im-pressed with stipude and ended 1999 with two poor efforts. Acts on equitack Pippas Prides Little sign of shifty on turk, and no form in malden and firm? hand-cap (8th lower here) on this all-meather track last two starts in 1998.

VERDICT: There are plenty of question marks over these runners, tew of whom can be relied upon to show their form. SQUARE MILE MISS has not run since July but gets the vote on her winning form over this course and distance 12 months ago. Harpoon Loute, Mutahadeth and, in particular, High Noon have to be considered

3.15 CORAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £10,000 added

<u>~</u>		fillies & mares 7f Penalty Value £6,938
	51440-	L'ESTABLE FLEURIE (116) (CO) (Miss N Jefford) 8 Smart 4 to 0 R Studholme (5) 3
	50341-	DAPHNE'S DOLL (6) (CD) (A Gordon) Miss G Kelleway 4.9 (3 (5ex) P Fredericks (7) 1
	00022-	ROISIN SPLENDOUR (17) (D) (P Blance) 8 Dow 4 9 8
	000010-	DAVIS ROCK (10) (CD) (BP) (Gordon 8 Currengham) W Mur 5 8 7 Mertin Dwyer 8
	05442-	AJIG DANCER (7) (Timbertill Roong Partnership) M Channon 49 3 J D Smith (3) 6
	60104-	SCOTLAND BAY (17) (CD) (Christopher W Wison) P Butler 49 2
	08000-	STEP ON DEGAS (92) (CD) (Mrs Pernic Muit) Mrs A King 8 9 2
		LA PETITE FLAMECHE (15) (MT Bevani R OSufican 4 9 1
		AMERITIOUS (42) (Dr Catherne Wills) J Fanshave 490
D		MISS DANGEROUS (10) (M G Quinn) M Quinn 4 8 12 F Norton 11
ī		RASPBERRY SAUCE (17) (C) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 5 8 10
,	0054-0	OUT LIKE MAGIC (4) (Mrs E A Dawson) P Evans 488
3	03405	TANCRED TIMES (7) (D) (Dodson & Partners) J Culinari 481
•	-	At let leave and a second a se

BETTING: 4-1 Rolein Spiondoux, 5-1 Davis Rock, 13-2 Alig Dancex, 7-1 Respiserry Sauce, Depts Doll, 9-1 Ambilious, 16-1 Scotland Bay, 14-1 L'Estable Fleurie, Le Petite Flemectre, 16-1 othe 1988. Davis Rock 4 9 12 S Sanders 15-2 (W Mur) drawn (4) 9 ran

1986. Davis Rock 4 9 12 S Sanders 15-2 (W Mury drawn (4) 9 ran FORM GUIDE

L'Estable Fleurie: Won a claimer here in June, but not run since being 18th of 19 in a tim handicap at Gloodwood in September. Stable 3 months without a Flet winner Daphtine's Doll: Lightly-raced flilly and was left to win easily by 14 lengths on only her 2nd outing on the AW over CID last week after the challenging Social Round broke a leg. Her 616 penalty may prove too much.

Rollain Splendour: Has finished 2nd on both outings on the AW and had Raspberry Sauce, who is only 216 better off, just over 3 lengths in 5th when 2nd to Smart Kid here (tm) lest month.

Devis Rock: Won a seller at Wolverhampton (7h) in November and could never go the pace when stepped up in class there on Boaring Dey when 8th to Mike's Double Alig Denoer: Looked as if she needs farther when second behind Mukarrab here (3h) last week with Tancred Times (seme terms) 2½ lengths away in 5th Scotland Bay: Won twice for Richard Hamon (including over C/D) and ran better race on 2nd outing for new yard when 4th to Bold Oriental over 1m here last month. Step On Degase, Has went 4 times (including once over C/D), but has not run on the AW and Entsched Times (seme terms) 2½ lengths are an 1-week break. La Petitis Plasmecher: Poor form in meldens and handicape and placed just once from 6 outings. No improvement on the AW and finished 1th of 13 over C/D last month. Ambilitious: Tries this trip for the first time and started events tavourite on her AW debut when 2nd to Ellway Prince here (6) in November. Well handicapped on her run form and worth another chance over this longer trip.

Ress Dengerous: Successful on turf and the AW at distances up to 6t, but weak-ened helf-they when 9th to Mike's Double at Wolverhampton (6f) on Boxing Day Raspberry Sauce here (fin) last month, but is only 5th better in for 4½ lengths. Out Ulto Magic: Wes making her 2nd appearance on the AW when 4th to Raspberry Sauce here (fin) last month, but is only 5th better in for 4½ lengths.

VEROLCT: Alth

VERDICT: Atthough she is proving expensive to follow it may be worth giving one more chance to AMBITIOUS, who has been dropped 50 since finishing fourth to Aoite over six furlangs here in November. She is well handicapped on her turf form and this extra furlang may make all the difference.

3 45 NELSON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO

_		1m 2f Penalty Value £2,671
1	82064-	TURTLE VALLEY (100) (Cazanove Clear Height Record) S Dow 97 P Doe (5) 2
2	350-	SUPER DOLLAR (71) (P S Parmarsho) P Gole 9 3
3	0045-	ORBITAL STAR (27) (Hombuckle Buckle Dalley & Knight) P Harris 8 (3
4	00460-	ROLLING RIO (125) (File Stainless Engineering Limited) P Hastern 8 9 P Goode (7) 7
5	0004-	ZOLA (85) (M Curri) M Quinn 86
8	40034-	CHALCEDONY (14) (J Baggott) T D Barron 84
7	00510-	ANONE APPLE (27) (David Allen) R Hannon 8 3
В	31000-	FAMILY TREE (35) (Michael Hill) D Chapman 82
8	0803-	BURTONS FOLLY (7) (C Burton & R Ingram) R Ingram 7 13 G Bardwell 4
10	00063-	MALCHEK (6) (I G Mirzoan) P Howing 7 12
		10 declared

BETTING: 3-1 Chalcedony, 6-1 Annie Apple, Critical Star, 7-1 Super Dollar, Rolling Rio, Bur Folly, 8-1 Orbital Star, 16-1 Turtie Valley, 12-1 others 1998: Nisaba 3 8 ft P P Murphy (3) 5-1 (J S Moore) drawn (5) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
Turtle Valley: Disappointing maiden at if to fin last season for John Dunlop, sold 5,000 guineas. Tried in bilinkers final start. Debut on sand and for new stable Super Dollar: Fair form in three but maidens (bi and 7t) in October. Prospects of Super Dottar: Pair form in three turi maldens (8) and 7) in October. Prospects of staying Irn2l on pedigree, but looked rather headstrong last season. Orbital Star: Modest form over imitate two starts as 2yo, staying on to be fourth of 15 in maiden at Donoseler and fifth of 12 in nursery on the track. Dropped 3th and catches the eye stepping up in trip and with form already on the sand. Rolling Rio: Promesing in maidens first three starts bur disappointing in two nurseries, only stath of 9 winns stepped up to 71 at Wolverhampton perultimate run. Zolaz 9% lengths fourth of 18 in 1m2! seller at Lexcester final 2yo start. No problems with staying the trip, indeed may need further. All-weather disput today. Chalcedony: Off course 5 months before making frame in two nurseries on Southwell all-weather. Raced wide last time, over 1m. Bred to stay 1m2! Interesting Annie Applie: Led post in 71 seller at Folkestone, in style suggesting sine will probably stay this 1m2! Below form in nursery here next time, on first run for 3½ months Ramilly Treet Won Im seller at Ayr in September on final run for Barry Hills. Has shown little in three nurseries smee, two on sand at Southwell, and hand to tancy Burtose Folly: No furt form before 9 lengths third of 7 to Cuessuary in Im seller here in December. Not the most solid of credentials, but likely to stay 1m2! Maidallic Won at m selling handicage at Lexcester in September. Showed little most starts afterwards until 3rd of 8 over 71 here lest week.

VERDICT: This is intriguing, with several possible improvers stepped up to 1m2!

VERDICT: This is intriguing, with several possible improvers stepped up to fin2t. Annile Apple fate into that category, as does Orbital Star who has a previous creditable effort on this surface. But the best option is CHALCEDONY who makes his debut at Lingfield but has two good efforts (from two starts) to his name on the all-weather at Southwell.

Katarino the top Triumph fancy

KATARINO, THE impressive winner of both his races in Britain so far, is favourite for the Triumph Hurdle, Nick Henderson's four-year-old, who raced three times over hurdles and once over fences (at Auteuil) in France, trotted up by 10 lengths from Sherganzar at Newbury in November and came out again just four days later where he notched a highly impressive 11-length victory over the useful Simply Gifted at Cheltenham, with Dangerus Precedent, the subsequent Prestbury Park winner, a fur-

ther 17 lengths back in fourth. Istabraq, the defending Champion Hurdler, remains the hottest favourite to retain

BY IAN DAVIES

his crown since See You Then in the 1980s, although French Holly, the winner of the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton, is providing some opposition.

Teeton Mill, who impressed in the Hennessy and the King George VI, has hardened as the Gold Cup favourite since Florida Pearl, last year's impressive Royal & SunAlliance Chase winner, fell in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown. Dorans Pride, winner of the Ericsson and placed in the last two Gold Cups, is available at 12-1.

Horse (Banerweight)	Corel	Was Hall	Ladbroles	Stenley	
Advocat (N Meadern st Sb)	7-1	1-1	7-1	64	
Impolsive Oream Œ O'Grady/11st Sibj	11-1	10-1	16-1	16-1	
Stoney Madire (Mrs. J. Hermyston/10st 4b)	141	12-1	14-1	144	
Generoes J Hassert/Har Eby	16-1	16-1	16-1	#1	
Snow Dragon (N Mesderner Sto)	14-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	
Black Queen (J & Kiely/frst 3b)	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Decoupage (C Egenon(GE)/Tist 8b)	dbt	20-1	14-1	16-1	
Gan-Same (P.J. Physic (Let. 12th)	16-1	16-1	\$4-1	20-1	
litylana Gold (W likeline, 10st 71b)	16-7	14-1	16-1	20-1	
Shantarini (5 Donohoa/11st 5b)	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Fishin Joella (N Meade/tist 2b)	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	
Its Tisse For A Win (W Mulins 10st)	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	
Penny Native (A L T Moore*10s* 7(b)	25-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	1
Polar Prospect (P Hobbs (GB/11st 12b)	14-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	
Regency Rains (A L T Moore 10:: 9lb)	25-1	25-1	30-1	20-1	
Severald (M.J.P.O'Brien/10st 15th)	25-1	16-1	16-1	20-1	
Total Success (T Walsh-10st 10b)	25-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	
Sadlers Reutes (P Hobbs/19st 2lb)	డ-1	16-1	20-1	20-1	
Archive Footage (D Weld/Tist 8th)	25-1	33-1	33-1	25-1	_
Arctic Weather (MJP (19nes/11st)	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	-;
Cairneress (J Woods/10s) 6th	33-1	33-1	25-1	33-1	
Deraheen Chief (A.J. Mickemara/10s) 90ti	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	_;
Gentle Mossy (P Nolan/10st 3th)	33-1	33-1	26-1	25-1	
Khekabar (C Roche/rish)	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	_
Once More For Luck (Mrs M Reveley (GB)/11st 3b)	25-1	33-1	3-1	33-1	-
Palette (W Mulice/10st (2b)	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	
Vivo IC Roche/Sst table	33-1	20-1	16-1	30-1	
No Avail & Mulins/Pcz (35)	33-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	_
Gozalani (P OBrady) ii st 3b)	40-1	50-1	33-1	40-1	
New Inn (S Golings (GB)/11st 3(b)	33-1	50-1	33-1	50-1	-
Kanastey 40 Hughes/9st Slot	66-1	50-1	33-1	50-1	
Experimental (GT (ynch/8s11b)	100-1	501	100-1	100-1	21
Minutes weight on the day, 65					_

CHAM	BION H	URDLE	(2m 110	yds)	
lorse (Tminer)	Coral	Wm HB	Ladbrokes	Stanley	Tota
stebrag (A POBrien/Id)	11-19	evens	11-10	11-19	11-39
rench Holly (F Murphy)	7-1	7-1	6-1	7-1	7-1
Mahiba Sands (M Pipe)	14-1	16-1	14-1	12-1	16-1
Slowing Wind (M Pipe)	16-1	15-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
irey Shot (I Balding)	164	16-1	16-1	16-1	20-1
en Supposin (R Rows)	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	204
inikeel (O Nicholson)	181	20-1	20-1	16-1	16-1
Opto Ster (J.M.Jefferson)	20-1	251	20-1	20-1	25-1
ridwell (M Ppe)	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
ady Cricket (M Pipe)	20-1	40-1	33-1	33-1	33-1

	TRIUMPH	HURDLE	(2m 1f)		
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	Was Hill	Ladbrokes	Strokey	Total
Katarino (N Henderson)	B-1	61	6-1	10-1	8-1
Hors La Loi III (F Doumen/Fr)	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	T6-1
Alienad (C Rochesh)	14-1	20-1	16-1	164	161
Knille Edge (M JP O'Bnervire)	20-1	20-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Dangenia Precedent (C Egert	ion) 20-1	254	25-1	25-1	25-1
Golden Rule (Miss F Crostay)	Q 25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Norsid Lad (P Nichols)	25-1	20-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
New Bird (D Nicholson)	20-1	35-1	33-1	33-1	53-1
Tour Puddington (hi Mormon)	20-1	25-1	25-1	33-1	25-1
Albelghana (F Murphy)	25-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	50-1

CHELTENHAM	GOLD	CUP CH	IASE (3m	2f 110y	ds)
Home (Trainer)	Coral	Who Ha	Ladbrokes	Stanley	Tale
Theton Mill (Miss V Williams)	11-4	7-2	5-2	3-1	7-2
Florida Pearl (W Mulins/Irt)	9-2	92	9-2	41	100-30
Cysor Matta (M Pipe)	6-1	8-1	12-1	9-1	16-1
Doramo Pridu (M Hourigan/M)	12-1	16-1	8-1	16-1	12-1
Escurteligue (O Nicholson)	8 -1	14-1	14-1	12-1	10-1
(Instaltable Book (M Pipe)	16-1	12-1	16-1	10-1	141
See More Business (P Nichola)	20-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	24
Suny Bay (S Sherwood)	16-1	20-1	204	16-1	20-1
Imperior Call (R Huteylet)	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	23-1
Simply Deabling (T Easterby)	16-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	20-1

RESULTS

FOLKESTONE

.10: (3m 2f novice chase) . EMERALD STATEMENT_B Fenton 2-1

CSF: 2203. Ner: genr lex.

2.10: (2m merden chase)

1. ROCKFORCE ________ Tezzerd 8-11 fav

2. Bresses Hill ________ A Fenton 14-1

3. Emperor's Magic ______ K Johnson 8-1

Also ran: 8-2 Mr Pope Man, 10-1 Swan

Street (5th), 14-1 Damien's Choica, 25-1

Royal Cellich (4th).

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Mallett, Tota: £190; £170, £290. DF: £380.

CSF: £1075. NF: Gallant Lord, Smart Guy.

2.60: Cn. 11 Their mere, morke bicco humbs.

2. Jason's Boy ... Mr S Stronge 7-2 3. Can't Say ... Mr Jeremy Young 10-1 Also rar: 4-1 Titan Thai (4th), 9-2 Scoble Girl (5th), 1-2 Helo Me Man (6th). 6 ran. 9: 5. 10.22 det. () Gracel, Pobertsbridgel. Total: 1240; C160, 1240, DF: 2770; CSF; (*156). 3,40: (2m 11 110yds handicap furdie) 1. TOPANGAR Studholmo

SOUTHWELL

1.30: 1. C-HARRY (R Cochrane) 11-4 jt twi 2. Mail Tai 20-1; 3. Kosevo 3-1, 13 ran, 11-4 jt fav Desert Invader (6th), 1/h, 7 (R Hollinshaad, Upper Longdon), Tothe 5400; 2140, E580, \$170, DF: \$5190, CSF: \$80.50. 2.00: 1. INTIAASH (S Whitworth) 15-2; 2. General Klaire 9-2 tav; 3. Dahildye 5-1 15 ran, 1%, 1. (D Haydn Jones, Porr Tote: £840; £250, £250, £240. DF CSF: £3556. Tricast: £17957. 2.30: 1. WHITLEY GRANGE BOY (C

Lowther) 2-1 fay; 2. Pipe Music 10-1; 3. Chabrol 6-1 10 ram. 1½, 5 (J.L.Eyr., Thirsk) Totas: 6300: 5170, 5240, 5350. DF: 55850 CSF: £22.21. Tricast: £238.15. Trifecta: 3.00: 1. GOLDEN SYRUP (J Quinn) 11-4; 2.

Nathan's Hero 2-1 lev; 3. Cyro 5-1 7 rtm. Nk, 11/4. (P Howling, Newmarket). Tota: £450; £240, £110. DF: £430. CSF: £761. 3.30: 1. RAYWARE BOY (J Quart) 6-1; 2. Love Blues 11-B fav; 3. State Wind 11-1 7 ran. 2. 12. (D Shaw, Newark). Tota: £10.80; £340, £10. DF: £1310. CSF: £427. Jackpot: Not won; £972802 carried forward to Lingfield today. Place 6: £108.15, Place 5: £26.15.



Fifth Test: Australian opener escapes dramatic run-out appeal to punish determined England

Slater strikes with savage force evokes

ENGLAND HAD to endure two con- By DEREK PRINGLE troversial umpiring decisions as in Sydney well as another Michael Slater hundred on another day of drama at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But, if the mistakes were unfortunate, Slater's century, his seventh in 16 Tests hundreds are compiled, this one was created by a man whose boldness and power made light of a crumbling pitch on which just one of his teammates made double figures.

There must be something about England's bowling attack that inspires Slater like no other, and well though Peter Such and Dean Headley bowled they were powerless against his muscular stroke-play and nimble footwork. Indeed, so dominate was his 123 that it contributed 66.85 per cent of his side's total, a percentage only bettered in Tests by Charles Bannerman, who contributed 67.34 per cent of the innings total in the first-ever match between Australia and England.

On a pitch now turning extravagantly Such took 5 for 81, though he might have gone for far less had Slater not been about. Using his feet to negate the spin, he hit Such for three sixes, two of them over longoff. It is an area only players of great power and verve would contemplate against a ball turning in to them.

But if they were the biggest hits, his most savage were saved for Darren Gough, who in spite of his hat-

Australia 322 & 184 England 220 & 104-2

trick on the first evening has looked against England, was a spectacle off colour. Returning from the few will forget in a hurry. If some Paddington End, Gough's three overs cost him 24 as Slater unleashed a series of lofted off-drives that Ian Botham and Gordon Greenidge would have struggled to hit harder.

One of them, a skimming blow that took about a second to crash into the boundary boards, brought up his hundred, a feat that took 165 balls. In fact, with Alex Tudor mysteriously bowling just five overs, only Headley, who once again howled superbly to take 4 for 40, escaped punishment.

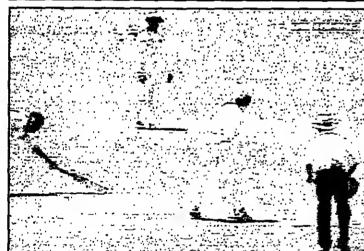
"I kept it as simple as I could," Slater said, explaining his masterful innings. "I decided to play my natural game and treat every ball on its merits. There was no point me being there if I wasn't scoring and, as far as I was concerned, I was just putting away the bad ball."

Slater needed luck, however, and it came when he was on 35. Batting with Mark Waugh, who clipped an offbreak from Peter Such to straight mid-wicket, Slater, feeling a two was on, called Waugh through for a second run. What he did not reckon on was Headley's brilliant pick-up and throw from the deep, a return that hit the stumps at the bowler's end with Slater stretching to make his ground.

Full: 1-16 (Taylor), 2-25 (Langer), 3-64 (M Waugh), 4-73 (Lehmann), 5-91 (Healy), 6-110 [5 Waugh), 7-141 (Marne), 8-180 (Slater), 9-184 (MacGill), 10-Headley 19-7-40-4 (2-1-4-0 5-1-14-1

ENGLAND - Second
M A Burcher st Healy b Warne...
60 min, A7 balls, 3 fours
*A1 Stewart st Healy b MacGill ...
83 mm, 55 balls, 5 fours
H has an not our
64 min, 47 balls, 1 four
M R Ramprakach not out....





Peter Such obscures the view of Slater's close call

The response of the England players in the vicinity was unanimous and the back-slapping had commenced before umpire Steve Dunne called for the TV replay. Stater apneared pretty sure of his shortfall too, though he later denied it, saying he removed his gloves because he knew the umpire would "take quite a while to make his decision."

The man that needed convincing, however, was the third umpire, Simon Taufel, who had officiated in England's game against Queensland in Cairns. Taufel had already given Justin Langer not out in this match to a direct hit in the first innings. On that occasion almost everybody else who saw that particular replay felt Langer, aithough close, was in fact out.

Slater also looked out, though the angle of the replay camera (only one per end as provided), as with Langer, was not precisely square on. To compound matters, Such, who was preparing to receive Headley's throw, had his leg in the way of one camera. Other angles, if also less than categoric, also provided strong circumstantial evidence that Slater had failed to make his ground.

"My first thoughts were that it was out," Slater said. "But only because direct hits that look close tend to find the hatsman out of his ground. From the camera angles the third umpire had, it was the best decision he could make.

"I got the benefit of the doubt because of the camera angles. At the end of the day the umpire can only make a judgement on what he saw."

Taufel, a printer by occupation, has clearly read Betrand Russell or, if not him, at least the letter of complaint sent by Graham Gooch to the match referee in Adelaide. It was there, remember, that the third umpire had given Michael Atherton out, apparently in world-record time, after a dubious catch at slip by Mark Taylor had been referred to a replay.

Here the extra umpire appeared to dwell so long over his decision (at least four to five minutes seemed to elapse) that existential dread probably set in. England, it seems, had been hoisted by their own petard.

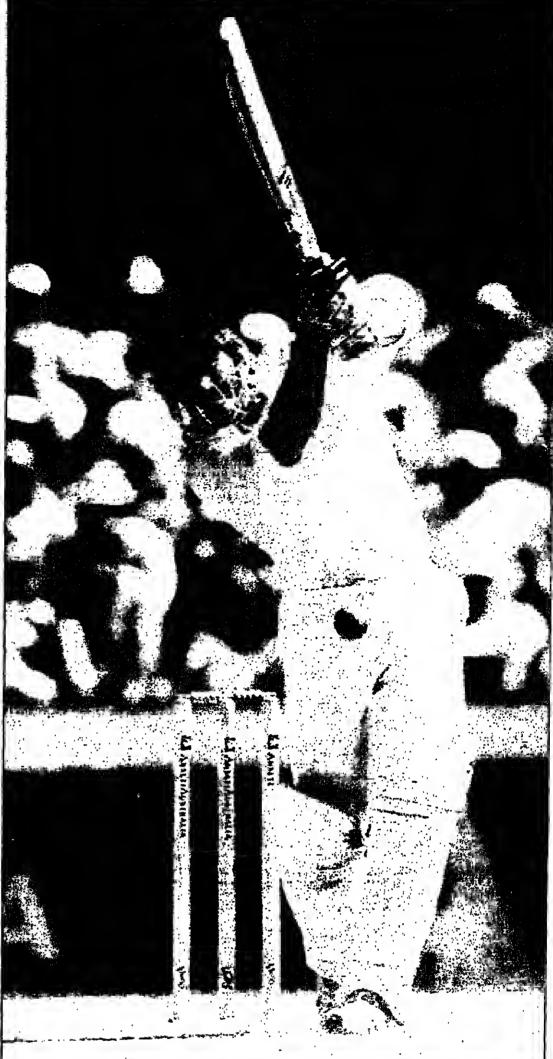
Yet whether Slater was in or out. the technology has once again been found wanting. If replays are going to be used for run-outs, the International Cricket Council must insist on countries using four dedicated cameras. In Australia, cameras would cost about A\$6,000 (£2,250) to hire, although yesterday's announcement by the ICC that financial backing for any such schemes will not be forthcoming means that for the time being, costs must be met by sponsorship, as is already the case in South Africa. Yet, while cricketing nous remains in short supply among some umpires, nothing less will do.

Such incidents can have farreaching costs and if you took away the 88 runs Slater scored after the incident, England, now needing a weighty 287 to win, would have required just under 200. Mind you, had Slater failed, someone like Steve Waugh, despite coming in at No 7 with a dodgy hamstring, would probably have taken up the mantle.

Fretting over "what might have beens" has been known to distract sides, who take their eye off the ball. If the matter did irk them England did not show it and, having eventually bowled Australia out for 184, they began their innings positively, taking four houndaries off five balls in the opening two overs.

In view of the deteriorating pitch, both Alec Stewart and Mark Butcher had obviously decided to play shots at the pace bowlers while the ball was still hard. It was a sound tactic, though one that ultimately came unstuck when Taylor turned to spin and, more specifically, to Shane Warne.

On Sunday, Warne had taken a wicket with his fourth ball back in



Australia's Michael Slater lashes a ball from Darren Gough to the boundary yesterday

Test cricket. This time he had to wait match for Warne's beautifully conuntil his sixth to bamboozle Butcher with a top-spinner delivered from wide on the crease; so wide in fact that his back foot cut the side crease and should have been called by umpire Dunne as a no-ball.

It is not the first time Dunne has missed something - he was the umpire who gave Atherton not out after he gloved Allan Donald at Trent Bridge. Of course, TV cameras, powerless to reprieve the batsman on this occasion, caught it as clear as day. Still, it was a foolish bit of batting, and Butcher'a cavalry charge,

ceived piece of cunning.

Following his steady but unspectacular showing in the first innings, Warne had been contacted by his spin guru, Terry Jenner Whatever the advice, it seems to have had an effect and, not long after bamboozling Butcher, he ripped three big turning leg-breaks past Nasser Hussain's bat.

Stewart, too, continued his positive vein against the spinners, twice clubbing Stuart MacGill for leg side boundaries against the spin. There is a thin line between being positive and acting in a reckless manner, and more in hope than command, was no Stewart, this time using his feet to

try and hit MacGill over the top, overstepped the mark. Like his brotherin-law he perished well short of his ground as Ian Healy, ever alert to

human lunacy, whipped off the bails. Aussies like Ian Chappell have long advocated batsmen using their feet to wrist-spinners. What Chappell does not tell those he advises, especially if they play for England, is that Australians have been doing it since the age of nine. To begin during the fourth innings on a turning pitch in the final Test of the series was unwise. After all, it was rash shot selection that Slater overcame to get back into the Australian team. So it is curable.

Innings a dash of Denis



HENRY BLOFELD IN SYDNEY

AFTER THREE such incredible days of cricket, it is almost impossible to be cool, dispassionate and reflective about any of it. Michael Slater's innings was one of those which everyone who saw it will remember to their dying day. Of course, he might have been given run out by the third umpire when he was only 35. and probably should have been, but even that cannot alter the essential fact that this was one of the most phenomenal innings in the history of Test cricket.

It was not Slater's fault that, from the pictures he saw, the third umpire was unable to make up his mind. Slater is the most ebullient of cricketers. He thrashed jubilantly about him in the second innings in Brisbane and he did something similar - if in a slightly lower key - at Adelaide, but this left the other two

It was technically hrilliant in a dashing, extrovert way which all too few cricketers are prepared to attempt these days, let alone able to accomplish. He was on the look-out for runs from the first ball of the innings and an early cut behind square for four off Dean Headley made one sit up and take notice. By then, Mark Taylor had gone and, when Slater repeated the stroke, Justin Langer was back in the pavilion.

This was the growing context of the innings. Wickets were continually falling at the other end and Slater must have found on him the extreme pressure of the situation, in that Australia might then have been losing a match from a potentially impregnable position.

Slater must also have been all too aware of how important it was that he did not get himself out. Yet he never gave the faintest impression that either thought had even crossed

his mind. In 1947, 1948 and thereabouts. Denis Compton may well have batted like this and if he did, one can understand why those who were lucky enough to be able to enjoy and appreciate him say that there has never been anyone quite like him. Slater now, with his daring footwork. some checky improvisations and the glorious, darting extrovert flair, cannot have been so very far behind

The statistics of Slater's innings. considering this was one played on a pitch which was turning square (although admittedly against only one spinner) were amazing. Perhaps the most intriguing of all was the fact that Slater scored a higher percentage of his side's runs than any other batsman hut one in a Test match since the very first innings of all, in Melbourne back in March 1877.

Slater's driving was the best and most exciting of all the strokes he played. He is of medium height and slightly built but he is strong and wiry with that heaven-sent gift of timing which is given to so few. Twice he came down the pitch and drove Peter Such - who bowled his offbreaks admirably - far over mid-off for six and once he spun like Steve Waugh and swept him with violence over mid-wicket for another.

Later, he came down the pitch to Such, drawing away to leg to leave himself a little room, and drove gloriously through extra cover. Graeme Hick, who had just been moved back to long-off, was powerless to do anything about it. When Gough came back after lunch, perhaps feeling an ankle Slater launched into a clubbing cover drive which simply smashed

the ball past mid-off for four. Later in the over, Gough tried a slower one and it disappeared back over his head to the Noble Stand boundary. Needing four for his hundred, Slater again faced Gough and another flailing drive through midoff made sure he did not linger long in reaching that landmark. Come to think of it, I doubt Compton gave the impression of hitting the ball as hard as Slater did now, for his timing was

supreme and his touch so felicitous. After tea, Slater returned to multiple applause, immediately played another cut at Headley, got an edge and departed to the standing ovation to end all standing ovations. His departure left us feeling limp and exhausted, yet as exhilarated as one might be after watching a highwire trapeze act at a circus, performed without a safety net. Cricket has not seen a much better high-wire act than this and, I can assure you,

West Indies clinging on

AIDED BY unusual South African generosity in the field, the West Indies scrambled their way out of the followon on the third day of the fourth Test yesterday, but still face two more days of tough grind if they are to avoid their fourth successive defeat.

Jonty Rhodes dropped Carl Hooper at cover point in the day's first over, Paul Adams let Ridley Jacobs' skier through his grasp at deep mid-on, the wicketkeeper Mark Boucher watched Ottis Gibson's edge fly past his right hand and a substitute, Ashwell Prince, put down Nixon McLean's deep-field dolly, all before the West Indies had reached their goal of 207.

Through their chances, the West Indies, 89 for 4 at the start, were finally bowled out at tea for 212. Hooper, 55 when put down, reached 86. the highest West Indies score of

the series. Without the faulty catching, Hansie Cronje would have had the option, and psychological advantage, of sending his dispirited opponents back in. However, his main strike weapon, Allan Donald, was on the treatment table in the team room with a strained left hamstring and the captain might have been relieved not to have to make the decision.

in Cape Town

South Africa 406-8 dec & 91-3 West Indies 212

A lead of 196 was imposing enough and, even with the early loss of three wickets for no runs in the space of 10 balls, it was a lead extended to 287 with seven wickets in-reaching the close at 91 for 3. tact by the end of the day. There is still ample time for South Africa's bowlers to work their way through the fragile West Indies batting, even on a pitch that is in ideal con-

South Africa's aerial errors contrasted sharply with their dazzling work on the ground, where the speed, athleticism and accuracy of Hershcelle Gibbs, Rhodes and especially Cronje saved countless runs.

Hardly an hour has gone by without a defining moment typifying the gap between the teams and Cronje's spectacular run out of Hooper was another. Casually turning for a third run while Cronje chased his drive to within a foot of the boundary, the overweight Hooper sensed too late the danger of a fast flat accurate return to the bowler's end and was shown, by the TV replays, to be a couple of inches short of his ground.

Another 61 were needed to avoid the follow-on with four wickets remaining when he left and only the missed chances allowed the West Indies to get there. When South Africa batted a second time, their progress was slowed by the loss of Gibbs. Garv Kirsten and Daryl Cullinan, before

Third day; South Africa won tos SOUTH AFRICA - First leadings: 406 for 8 dec. (J H Kallis 110, O J Cultinan 168).

-212. wiling: Donald 6-1-20-3, Poliock 22-9-35-2, brugge 20-9-37-1, Kallis 15-5-34-2, Adams -2-61-1, Cronje 6-1-23-0. SOUTH AFRICA – Second Innings

J H Kalits not out O J Cultinan fow b McLean ... "W J Cronje not out W / Cronje no. Carlos de la Carlos de la Carlos (No. 3, 36 ouers)
Dotal (for 3, 36 ouers)
Fall: 1-31, 2-31, 3-31.
Bourling (to date): McLean 9-1-25-2: Gibson 19-2-15-1: Hooper 5-2-7-0; Chanderpaul 1-0-2-0
C

England overcome Academy

THE LANCASHIRE left-hander Neil Fairbrother led the way as England's one-day team beat the Queensland Academy of Sport by 44 runs in a rain-shortened practice match in Brisbane yesterday.

Fairbrother hit 68 from 75 balls with four boundaries and two sixes in an England total of 214 for 6 from 38 overs.

The openers Nick Knight (48) and Vince Wells (31) made sound contributions for England, who then bowled economically to keep the Queenslanders at bay. The tourists managed to restrict the home team to 170 for 7.

England's joint spin attack of Robert Croft and Ashley Giles were ishing with 2 for 24 and Giles taking 2 for 23 from their five overs each. Martin Love was the top scorer for Queensiand with an unbeaten 67, but the Academy fell well short of the required target.

Dravid helps India stay afloat in Test

scored a fine 190 yesterday to steer the tourists to a first innings lead of 50 against New Zealand in the third Dravid, helped by 76 from the tail-

ender Javagal Srinath, was the backbone of India's 416, in which seven batsmen failed to shine. At stumps on the third day, New Zealand were five runs behind, having added 45 runs without loss to their first innings total of 366.

Dravid, who had helped repair the innings on Sunday after both openers went cheaply, filled the breach again when India lost two early wickets to slump to 211 for 7. In the first half-hour Nayan Mongia went for seven and Anii Kumble for a duck. Dravid and Srinath rescued India the pick of the bowlers, Croft fin-from a first innings deficit with a record partnership of 144, beating by one run India's previous best eighthwicket stand against New Zealand, between Bapu Nadkarni and Far-

rokh Engineer in Madras in 1964-65. Whenever I felt tired or felt I was losing concentration, I looked at Srinath and felt refreshed and determined to keep on hattling,"

THE INDIAN batsman, Rahui Dravid, New Zealand 366 & 45-0 India 416

> Dravid said after amassing his highest Test score. Dravid's knock lasted just over eight hours and included 28 boundaries, but fatigue finally got the better of him. He was caught after playing a tired-looking shot off

Srinath c twest o westman...
3 V K Prasad not out
R Singh c Fleming b Calms...
Extras (02 rb4 w8 nb4) 211, 8-322, 9-410 Bowling: Doull 35-15-64-3; Csims 22 3-3-107. 4 (nb3 w4); Nash 37-10-98-2 (w-4), Vectort 16-2-71-0_ (nb-1); McMillan 4-0-24-0; Wiseman

MPW ZEALAND - Se

there was no safety net.

under

AS THE two most powerful men

in world football started a ver-

bal scrap yesterday over the fu-

ture of the World Cup.

England's leading players' representative said the game was

in danger of "chucking players

over a cliff" and ending careers

prematurely through too much

Sepp Blatter, the president of

Fifa. world football's governing

body, said over the weekend he

would like to see the World Cup,

currently played every four

years, become a biennial event.

He sdded yesterday he would

not expect his plans to be in

place before 2008 - because the

bidding process for the 2006

tournament, which involves

England, is already under way

but fanned the flames of con-

troversy by saying there could

be a taste of the future as early

as 2004 with a scaled down

World Cup to celebrate Fifa's

Lennart Johansson, who lost

out to Blatter in last year's Fifa

presidency election and is now

the president of Uefa, European

football's governing body, came

out firmly against his rival's pro-

posals. He pointed out that

2004 was also Uefa's 50th an-

niversary and it would soon an-

nounce the host for that year's

in the same year unaccept-

able," Johansson said. "The

proposal to organise a World

Cup every two years has not

been officially submitted to the

Fifa executive, and the confed-

erations, who would be strong-

ly affected hy it, were certainly never informed or consulted."

poses changes to internation-

al football competitions, meets

in Zurich before the next Fifa

The matter is likely to come

"I find the idea of a World Cup

European championship.

centenary.

ings kes Denis plan is



)FELD SYDNEY

such incredible day almost impossible u sionate and reflective Michsel Sieters in of those which even it will remember u Of course. he might en run out by the then he was only 35 hould have been be ot alter the essental was one of the most mings in the history

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The report act



qualifying competition. The South American and African championships are held every two years while Asia's leading nation is effectively decided every two years hy the Asian Cup and Asian Games football FIFA'S SUPER 7

This is Fifa's Strategic Studies Committee - the seven men who could change the future of the world's biggest sporting event when they meet in Zurich before the next Fifa executive meeting

Chairman: Sepp Blatter (Fifa president\ Deputy chairman: Lemart Johansson (Uefa president). Other committee

Issa Hayatou (Cameroon FA). Jack Wamer (Trinidad FA) Charles Dempsey (New Zealand FA). Nicolas Leoz (Paraguay FA) Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (Malaysia FA).

tournament, but Uefa is determined to avoid joining them and

has plenty of support. "A World Cup is something to look forward to," Sir Bobby Charlton, a leading figure in England's 2006 hid, said. "Waiting for it increases the value of a major international tournato a head within the next two it. A change to every two years months when Fifa's Strategic would be very sad. I just hope

Ger Stolk, spokesman for the Dutch FA, which will cohost Euro 2000, said: "We think Executive Committe meeting it would be very tough from a on 11-12 March. Blatter is the medical point of view. There are chairman of the SSC. Johann- already complaints about the son is the deputy chairman demands on players."



The Uefa president, Lennart Johansson, has expressed disapproval of plans for a biennial World Cup Reuters

Stolk's views were echoed by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. "We'll be looking at a 12-month season," he said, speculating on the possible consequences of playing

ment every year. "It's like lemmings, chucking get to the point where we'll have no players left or they'll all be playing patched up."

The scenario where some compete in annual league programmes, domestic cup com-

petitions and European club competitions, as well as in biennial World Cup and European Championship tournaments, would be "ridiculous" Taylor

"It's only going to shorten a player's career," he added. "It's and ourselves to say 'we need have the whole of June blocked mand. off, or at least one month, ide-

footballer can play per year)."

healthy players no longer seem to be a priority. "We're getting patched up players not playing at their best. We've got to start looking after them."

Fifa denied yesterday that Blatter's proposals would imup to the authorities like the FA pose too many demands on players and added the plans

"We see every four years at ally in the summer, we need to the World Cup what an enorlook at the football passport mous appetite the global footplayers would be expected to idea [where limits are set on the ball public has for competition total amount of games each of this kind," a statement said. The finances generated by

Taylor added that fit and the event would help the national associations in their continuing efforts to promote football at all levels, to achieve a better balance with the major clubs in a handful of western

European countries." Blatter, who as the Fifa president and chairman of the Strategic Studies Committee, in the position to impose h will, sald: "We are going to get down to consulting the national associations as soon as possible. Personally, I believe in it strongly and will put all my energy into hringing this reform

Lightning no diver'

MICHAEL OWEN has been defended against accusations of diving by the Port Vale centreback he tormented in Liverpool's FA Cup third round

Liverpool's teen sensation

was booed by Vale fans who claimed he made a meal of a penalty area challeoge during the 3-0 win, hut Vale's Paul Beesley insists it was only the England player's phenomenal speed which made it look like a dive. The 33-year-old Port Vale defender came up against Owen for the first time in his career, and the Liverpool-born Beesley hopes it does not happen again. He said: "If I had to face him every week, I'd be grey. He doesn't dive, he's just so damned quick it looks that way."

Owen won the penalty, scored it himself, and created the third for Rohhie Fowler in a dazzling display of lightningfast football.

Beesley, who boasts s solid career during which he has played for Wigan, Leeds, Man-chester City, Sheffield United and Leyton Orient, said he had encountered no one like Owen. "Up until Sunday, I'd managed to miss playing against him," he said. "I will probably be old and grey when the next chance comes around, and it will be too early."

Owen's team-mate, Patrik Berger, has revealed that Liverpool's re-discovered form could be down to their manager Gérard Houllier's tough new regime. The Czech international midfielder says that since Roy Evans departed the new team of Houllier and the old Anfield stalwart Phil Thompson have imposed a stringent code of discipline.

Liverpool players, who once game's Spice Boys, have been banned from using mobile phones at the training ground, have had a new diet imposed on them and have to stay in a hotel the night before home matches. Berger, who almost left Liverpool before Houllier resurrected his eld career said: "There ha been a lot of small disciplinary changes. I don't know how the other players feel, but they're

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

Berger, who played for Borussia Dortmund before moving to Anfield, admits the new approach is the reason for improved results. He added: "The discipline in Dortmund was far stricter than in this country. That's starting to happen now hecause the continental trainers are tightening up on discipline. There's a different mentality and upbringing over here. It's not what I was used to in Germany and the Czech Republic, it's far easier."

Liverpool have jumped from 12th in the FA Carling Premiership to seventh with consecutive Premiership victories over Sheffield Wednesday, Middlesbrough and Newcastle, and carried their rich vein of form into the new year with Sunday's FA Cup third round win 3-0 at Port Vale.

The Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, yesterday admitted his side were missing Dwight Yorke, the striker they sold to Manchester United, hut backed Paul Merson to fill the void as the Premiership title race gathers pace.

Merson is hack in training at the club's Bodymoor Heath training complex after having an injection to ease the back problem be has been suffering for the past three months. Gregory is hoping to play in reserve matches over the next nine days to confirm his fitness for the televised match against Everton on 18 January.

Gregory said: "We are still missing Dwight Yorke at times. There have been quite a few occasions with us this season which would have been ideal for Dwight. There were times last gained a reputation as the year when Dwight won us matches away from home when we were under the cosh. times when he kept the ball and created situations at the other end of the pitch.

"Paul Merson is very similar. He can do the same sort of thing. He has got a bit more going to need him. You never know with back problems what can happen. They are so deliprofessional footballers. They cate and any one of us can be have to do what they are told. struck down by a back problem Some players may not like it, but at any time. But he seems

Curbishley hits back over Vieira

THE CHARLTON manager, Alan month-long Arsenal career, will Curbishley, has hit hack at now start a three-match sus-Patrick Vieira as the war of words continues over the Arsenal player's sending-off at Football Association to have the

The Valley eight days ago. Curbishley'a opposite number, Arsène Wenger, last week accused Charlton's Neil Redfearn of "cheating" by feigning a facial injury so that referee Uriah Rennie would send Vieira off for swinging an elbow. But Curbishley insisted: "Vieira was cause he was breaking football

the one who was cheating belaws by using violent conduct." for the fourth time in his 27

SKI HOTLINE

weather report:

and weather report:

pension next Monday unless his club succeed in an appeal to the

sending-off decision rescinded. However, Curbishley said: "I don't believe Arsenal have any hope of getting the decision overturned. Vieira raised an elbow with the intent to injure Redfearn and the fact that the elbow did not connect with his face is irrelevant."

Curbishley's comments follow an attack by Manchester United's Alex Ferguson on the Vieira, who was red-carded Double-winners, accusing their players of enjoying a "scrap".

Brolin escapes injury after elk accident

SWEDEN TOMAS BROLIN, the former REAL BETIS have hired a pri-Leeds United and Crystal Palace forward, escaped unhurt after his car was in collision with an elk on a road in central fender Sweden at the weekend.

Brolin, who retired from playing football last August, also played for Parma in Italy and the Swedish national side.

"My guardian angels belped me," Brolin said. "I am very lucky not to have been injured." He is not the only Swede who has played in England to have such an accident. Klas Ingesson, the former Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, almost missed the 1994 World Cup after driving into an elk.



Ayala went home hefore Christmas and did not return. "He was supposed to return on 31 December and we have not heard anything since," the Seville club's president, Ruiz de

Lopera, said yesterday. "I know he wants us to hand him back to River Plate," an angry Lopera added. "This is not going to bappen. Either he plays for Real Betis or does not play at ail." Ayala was signed from the Argentine club at the



AROUND THE WORLD **EDITED BY**

RUPERT METCALF

The player claimed in his one brief message to the club that he had put off his return because of the health of his father. "But now it appears his father has not been ill and we are fed start of the season. up with his delay," Lopera said.

of the Spanish League season when they beat the leaders, Mallorca, 1-0 on Sunday A free-kick from Toni Vela-

mazan after 30 minutes bobbled in front of Mallorca's goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, and the Argentine World Cup player misjudged the bounce.

Mallorca mounted a sustained second-half assault on the club who started the day bottom of the 20-team division. hut could not penetrate the

Extremadura defence.

CAMEROON FIFA, WORLD football's ruling

body, yesterday suspended

Cameroon's football federation, riod, excluding the national team and the country's clubs from international competitions and friendly matches.

The decision, which takes effect immediately, was made after the west African country's sports ministry sent a fax to Fifa last week containing reservations about previously agreed plans for the federation, Fifa

said in a statement. "Fifa greatly regrets that, in spite of its numerous efforts and the patience it has shown in its handling of Cameroon's case, it has been forced to take such a decision." The suspension also means Fecafoot, the Cameroon federation, loses its voting

Fifa dissolved the federation in November due to a series of financial problems and appointed an interim executive to run the organization for nine months. In late November. Cameroon sports officials and the Fifa president, Sepo Blatter met in an attempt to resolve the problems that led to Fifa dissolving the ruling body.

The interim executive was charged with revising Fecafoot's statutes and managing the country's football until s replacement executive was elected. It was also asked to settle the association's debts, pay salaries due to its staff and set up fully functioning offices and

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BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 81 Derby 76: Newcasile 71 Sheffield 84; Thames Valley 120 Chester 102. UNI-BALL TROPHY Group A: Man-chester 79 Millton Keynes 61; Worthing 77 Lefcester 79. Group B: Greater London 89 Edinburgh 81. BOWLS

WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk) Pairs first reand: M King and A Allock [Eng] bt G and G Campbell (Sco) 7-32-77-61-77-5: G Robertson and R Corsie (Sco) bt P Black and N Gibson [m] 7-2 7-3 7-0; G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) bt G Dennis and M Roberts (Wal) 7-0 7-2 7-0. CRICKET

SHEFFELD SHELD (Fleat day of four): Tasmania 370 (D.) Marsh 77. J Cox 77, 5 Young 75; M Inness 4-89) and 207 for 2 (D 1485 SO); Viccoria 406 for 8 dec (5 Craig 128no). March drawn. DARTS Phil Taylor, of Stoke, beat the North Cheam newsagent Peter Manley 6-2 in the final of the Skol PDC

Championship at Purfieet on Sun-

day to eam his seventh world title In 10 years. In 10 years.

SKOL PDC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
(Circus Tavera, Porfleet) Final: P laylor (Stoke) bt P Manley (North Cheam) 6-2.

MARASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
(Lalustide Country Club, Fritzley Green,
Surrey) First round: R Baxer (Eng) bt
R Burnett (Mai) 3-0; C Stompe (Nelh) bt
O Richardson (Eng) 3-0; R Scholten (Neth)
bt J Watton (Eng) 3-0.

FOOTBALL

Sheffield Wednesday are giving a trial to the Swedish international striker Alexander Ostlund. The 20-year-old, out of contract at AiK Stockholm, will play for the Owls re-serves against Burnley tomorrow. Leeds have agreed to switch their FA Cup third-round replay against

Rushden and Diamonds from next Tuesday to Wednesday 13 January, at the request of ITV, who are tele-vising highlights of the game. vising highlights of the game.

Manchester United's FA Cup fourthround tie with Liverpool will be televised live by Sky Sports on Sunday
24 January, with a noon kick-off,
FPXTURE CHANGES, Nationalde Football
Langue: Wed 3 March: Barnsley v Bradford
(from 2 Morch). FA Cap third round replay;
Wed 13 January: Leeds v Rushden & Diamonds (from 12 January) Fourth round:
Sens 24 January Manchester Urd v Liverpool (from 23 January).
INTERNATIONAL FREENDLY: Nory Cost

INTERNATIONAL PRIENDLY: Wory Coast 3 Togo 1. 3 logo 1.

SUMDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Spanish
League: Real Zaragoza 3 (Gonzzlez 40, Santiago Aragon 73, Minsevic 79) Deportivo La
Coruña 1 (Zani 29). Portraguese League:
Sporting 1 Beofica 2; Maritimo 3 Boavista 0.

ICE HOCKEY NHL: Edmonton 3 Philadelphia 3 (ot): De-

SPORTING DIGEST PACIFIC DIVISION Dallies 24 5 6 107 67 54 Phoenia 21 8 4 95 53 46 Anahelm 14 14 8 87 83 36 San Jose 11 16 8 75 83 30 Los Angeles 23 21 3 87 98 29

RALLYING The Spaniard Jose Maria Servia col-

lected his first stage victory in the Dakar rally yesterday when he took the 451km fourth section between Tan Tan, Morocco, and Bir Morgrein, Mauritania. The Schlesser driver was 3min 19sec ahead of the German Jutta Kleinschmidt, who kept the overall lead in a Mitsubishi. The defending champion Jean-Pierre Fontenay of France, fifth overall at cer three successive punctures to his Mitsubishi. He is now 10th overall, 4S minutes behind the leader. In the motorcycle section, BMW won its motorcycle section, is now won its first stage since its return to the rally last year, thanks to Spain's Oscar Gal-lardo, who took the overall lead ahead of his team-mate Richard Sainct of France.

ahead of his team-mate richard Sainct of France.

DAKAR RALLY Fourth stage (\$15km, including a 451km timed section, har first, florocot to Bir Morpreis, Mauritapita) Carts 11M Servia [5p] Schlesser Ahr 18min 11sec; 2.1 Kleinschmidt (Gerl Mitsubisht +3min 19sec; 3.1. Schlesser [Fr] Schlesser +5;47, 4.1 Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubisht +12:21; 5 K Shrhozuka (Japan) Mitsubisht +12:21; 5 K Shrhozuka (Japan) Mitsubisht +12:31; 7 5 Servia (5p) Missan +2:514; 8
G De Mevius (Bel) Nissan +16:59; 9 G Grammer (Bel) Mitsubisht +36:19; 10 J-P Fontenay (Fr) Mitsubisht +40:01. Overall standings: 1 Kleinschmidt 8hr 4min 47sec; 2.) M Servia +5 froit Obsec; 3 Schlesser +8:28; 4 Masuoha +10:57; 5 Shinozuka +31:07; 65 Servia +33:26; 7 De Lavergne +35:08; 8 De Mevius +41:46; 9 M Prieto (5p) Mitsubisht +45:01; 10 Fontenay +45:03. Missorveties: 1 O Gallardo (5p) BMW 4hr 31min 10sec; 2 F Meconi III) KTM +2:49; 3 R Saince (Fr) BMW +4:40; 4 C Socielo (5p) Vanara +5:43; 5 A Ca, (54) KTM +10:40; 6 T Magradid [Fr) KTM +10:40; 7 J Katrinak (Cz Rep) KTM +15:57; 8 E Onoli (II) KTM +16:40; 9 J Bruzy [Fr] BMW +17:40; 10 J Roma (Sp) KTM +17:57.

Overall standings: 1 Gallardo Bhr 15min 4sec: 2 Sainct + 1 min 56sec: 3 Cox + 3:29; 4 Meord + 3:47; 5 Roma + 5:19, 6 H Kinl-gadner (Aut) KTM + 13:57; 7 G Sala (II) KTM + 16:11; 8 Soxelo + 16:56; S Katrinak + 18:20; 10 Orlol) + 18:37.

RUGBY UNION

R UGBY UNION

NPI CUP Shith-round draw: North and
Midlands Divisions Dudley Kingswinford v
Vale of Lune: Illeston v Old Laurenthans; Penrith v Driffield; West, Park 51 Helens v Aidwiniams. London & South East and South
West Divisions; Barnstaple v Dings
Crusaders Conderford v Basingstoke, Maldstone v Camborne: Sevenasis v Bishop's Scortford, (Ties to be played Solurday 23 January),
TETLEY'S BITTER WASE Shith-round
draws North and Midland Divisions Heaton
Moor v Leeds Connibings; Scarbrough v Old
Hamptonians, Silvillians v Rushden & Higham; Wellingborough OG or Upton upon Seveen v Knottingley, London & South Bast and
South Wast Divisions: Auton or Permanians
v Datriworth: Billericay or UCS Old Boys v
Millinall: Hucclecote v Old Tiffinians; Terbury
v St Just. (Ties to be played Saturday 23 Januory).

SNOOKER S N O O K E R

SCOTTISH OPEN (Blackpool) First qualifying reseat; 5 Reardon (Eng) bt S Mifsud (Aus) 5-3; A Caruer (Eng) bi B Rowswell
(Eng) 5-1; O McDonnell (Eng) bi W Talaat
(Eg) 5-2; K Helgason (Ice) bi B Haneveer
(Bel) 5-1; G Dunn (Soo) bt N Robertson (Aus)
5-0; P Camey (Eng) bi G Natale (Can) 5-3;
J Delaney (Irf) bt M Cutajar (Malta) 5-1; M
Johnston-Allen (Eng) bi D Hackeson (Eng)
5-3; M Wiftson (Eng) bt N Nazan (SA) 5-2;
J Younger (Aus) bi S Gull (Eng) 5-3; R Hull
[Fin) bi M Bray (Eng) 5-0.

TENNIS

TENNIS
HOPMAN CUP MIDGED TEAMS TOURNAMENT (Perch, Aus.) Round-robin
plaster Sweden bt United States 2-1 Swe
names first): A Carisson lost to 1. Davenport
6-2 6-0; J Bjorkman bt J-M Gambill 6-2 6-4;
Bjorkman and Carisson bt Gambill and Davenport 7-6 6-4. France bt Spain 2-1 [Fr
nemes first): 5 Testud bt A Sanchez-Vicario
6-4 6-3: 6 Raous bt C Moya 7-6 2-6 6-3;
Raoux and Testud bt Moya and Sanchez-Vicario 7-5 7-5.
ADDEL AIDE BIEN'S HARDCOURT CHAM-

ADELAIDE MEN'S HARDCOURT CHAM-PIONSHIPS Singles, first round: 5 Draper (Aus) bt J Gimestob (US) 3-6 7-6 6-3; G Kuerten (Bra) bt J Golmard (Fr) 7-5 6-1; J

Stoltemberg (Aus) bt A DI Pasquale |Fr| 6-1 6-4; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt 5 Lareau (Can) 6-3 3-6 6-1: O Hrbary (Sbook) bt M Puetra |Arg; 4-6 6-1 7-5; T Enqvist |Swe) bt M Wood-forde (Aus) 0-6 6-4 6-4; L Hewitt | Aus) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 7-5 6-4.

N Kiefer (Ger) 7-5 6-4.
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HARDCOURT
CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bristhams) Singles,
first round: A Surjama (Lapan) to C. Morartu (US) 6-2 6-7 6-3; R Dragoms (Rom) bt
E transovs (Uler) 6-1 6-3; S Pitkowski (Fr)
bt A Molik (Aus) 6-3 6-2; Wang Shi-Ting
(Talw) bt 5 Pitschke [Aut) 6-4 7-6; M Serna
(Sp) bt 5 Appelmans (Bel) 6-2 3-6 6-3; E
Ushowtsen (Rus) bt N Pratt (Aus) 6-2 6-1; N Dechy (Fr) bt T Panova (Rus) 6-1 2-6 6-2.
AMERIKAND MOMPHYS CLASSEC Sta-N Decty [F) bt T Panova [Rus) 6-1 2-6 6-2.

AUCKLAND MOMENTS CLASSIC Stages, first round: 5 Farina [It) bi A Glass
[Ger] 6-4 7-5: J Halard-Docuges [Fr] bt. Nejedy (Can) 6-3 6-3: S Schetz (Aut) bt E Wagner [Ger] 6-1 6-0: M Alejandro Vento (Ven)
bt M Weingartner (Ger) 5-7 6-0 6-0: F Labat
(Arg) bt R Hudson [NZ] 6-3 6-2: M Shaugnessy (US) bi L Golarsa [It] 6-1 6-4; M
Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt A Kremer (Lus) 3-6
6-3 6-4.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of goals scored in the Spanish First Division at the weekend, the fifth largest tally in Spanish football history, and the highest in 43 years.

77

a/3





WILLIAMS' ULSTER MISSION P18 WORLD CUP WAR HOTS UP P23

Wiseman's exit signals FA scramble

KEITH WISEMAN did not go quietly when he finally quit as chairman of the Football Association yesterday but his final denials of wrong-doing were swiftly drowned out by the manifestoes for change being issued by his potential successors.

Wiseman had sooken for an hour at the FA Council's meeting at Centre Point, central London, before accepting he would not sway the popular mood baying for his head. His resignation follows the exposure of a £3.2m payment offered to the Football Association of Wales in return for its vote in the game's chambers of power:

The attention swiftly moved to a Lancaster Gate hotel where three putative successors were gathered to inter the Southampton coroner's career in football politics. They were there to bury Wiseman, not to praise him, and there was talk of a "new dawn", the game "moving forward" and "unity".

Behind the smiles, however, Geoff Thompson, the acting chairman until an election is held in June, David Sheepshanks and David Richards were plotting their campaigns. None have formally announced their intention to stand - only Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman has declared himself - and there will be much horse-trading hefore nominations close in May, but all have an eye on the prize.

Before the election, Thompon and David Davies, the acting chief executive, will be going to Fifa, Uefa and Scottisb and Northern Irish FA's to "apologise" for the FA's recent conduct in its pursuit of the 2006 World Cup. "Bridges need to be built", Thompson said. Davies added: out of place among the prelim-"Lessons oeed to be learned" in respect of the World Cup bid.

The pair will also try and implement change to the Council itself on the back of a working party report into restructuring the FA which is to be published later this month. Should they succeed in this difficult task, they may end up working together permanently.

BY GLENN MOORE

Thompson, who seems certain to he the candidate of choice for the amateur game, will first have to fight off the challenge from within the professional ranks. That will come from Sheepshanks or Richards. The latter has the Premiership's support, the former is more likely to win an election.

Bates, the outsider, chose not to speak to the media vesterday, leaving Centre Point by the back door. It is understood he played only a minimal part in the council meeting.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT FA CHAIRMAN? David Sheepshanks Ipswich chairman, aged 46

Impressed with stewardship of the Foot-ball League where he recently stepped down as chairman. Well-groomed, ambitious and smart. The favourite. Geoff Thompson Sheffield & Hallomshire FA, 53 Yorkshire magistrate and barrister. Failed in attempt to become chairman

in 1996 but will hold position until June election. Prominent representative of the FA Council's bedrock, the county David Richards Sheffield Wednesday chairman, 55 Preferred choice of the Premier League two years ago, he finished third behind Wiseman and Thompson, having failed to attract votes from elsewhere.

Ken Bates Chelsea chairman, 67 Already campaigning via the tabloid press. Long, controversial and ultimately successful stewardship at Stamford Bridge. Would attempt radical change.

Davies, meanwhile, is yet to declare himself a candidate for the chief executive's position, which is unlikely to be filled before June. However, his talk of "vision" and "unity" was not

inary campaigning. Wiseman left with a sop, the council unanimously recording, in his words, that they "wish to make it clear that no aspersions have been cast on my integrity or honesty". As a coroner by trade that was important to him, though it begged the question as to why he bad been forced to resign.

Thompson said it was because of two "grave errors" of judgement, first in agreeing the deal with the Welsh (part of a failed attempt to gain a seat on world body Fifa's executive), and secondly in not passing it through the relevant FA committee.

Wiseman, who will retain his position on the board at Southampton, will not be lamented. A compromise choice when elected in the summer of 1996, he managed to alienate both professional and amateur sides of the game. He was said by Davies to have told the council he was "sorry" but there was no mention of an apology in his statement

Whether his successor will fare any better depends whether the reforms, promoted by Durham's Frank Pattison, succeed, "We are endeavouring to streamline the board [which has 90 members) while retaining its broad base," he said.

Pattison chastised Bates for his recent pronouncements in the press, which have included criticism of England coach Glenn Hoddle and other FA staff.

"Some of these were unfortunate for a director of a company," the 62-year-old solicitor said. "Inaccurate information was given out on subjects which should not be in the public domain. Some of the comments attributed to him would be a masterbiece in de-motivation of staff."

paign to stretch yesterday's "unity" now seems inevitable. This was illustrated when the group were asked what abilities the new chairman would require. Thompson said: "Integrity, leadership, vision, an ability to understand the whole of the game and convince the council of the need for change." Sheepshanks, the businessman. agreed, but added "business management skills".

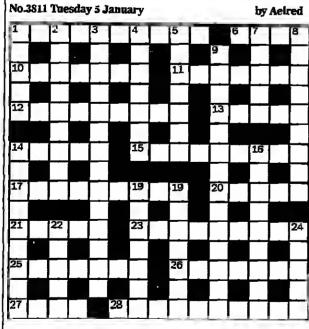
Not mentioned were an astute political antenna, patience, luck, a thick skin and eyes in the back of your head - to see the knives being sharpened.

Monday's Solution



Sharpe signs for Sampdoria to end Elland Road nightmare

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS One having no difficulty as Mr Chips? (4,6) 6 Fish? That's a thought

10 Not literally mix with Romans? (7) 11 One in clear might be discharged as such 7)

12 Luddite hates loom as being detestable (9) 13 Name only applied to man-made fabric (5) 14 Marriage service in church left by Commu-

nist male (5) 15 Will try a time to capture soldiers (9)

17 Intoxicate about 2 males to cause a mess (9) 20 Lengthy delivery from

doctor with implement

21 Poor diva holds piano to be flat (5)

25 Don't travel enough to suffer (7) 26 A waiver in reuse of channel (7)

28 Different agreements about territory right in the past (10)

> DOWN Write to gangster of his servitude? (5)

Jesuits etc? (8,6)

23 Estimated distance

round king left no space 8

Work regularly back to cover English sound?

Give resume of season's lookers, we hear (9) Dismissal of strutting

Achieve success as vendor in open market? Priest replaced conserv-

Live as wife in depression (5) Reportedly against

ative in too much, say

province about to come to birth (9) Norm's one who puts up with outstanding leader

14 Take words back to keep 5 of us from revolting (9) 16 A woman with power has to speak and vanish

18 It locates one of us capitally? (3,4) 19 Delight in French monastic singing (7) 22 After games boy rose to use hike (5)

England's hopes of drawing the series with Australia were 24 You and I will enter terdealt a potentially severe hlow ritory that's comparawhen Steve Taufel failed to give tively quaint (5) Michael Slater run out when he appeared to be short of his

LEE SHARPE yesterday be- By WYN GRIFFITHS

came David Platt's first signing as Sampdoria manager when Graham and then O'Leary. He he joined the Italian club on has made three starts for loan for the rest of the season. Leeds this season, the last The Leeds winger, put on the against Roma in the Uefa Cup transfer list by the Elland Road on 3 November.

manager, David O'Leary, last The Nottingham Forest chief year, has moved to the Serie A executive, Phil Soar, has disclub with a view to a permanent missed speculation that Ron transfer. A United spokes-Atkinson, the former Aston woman confirmed: "Lee Sharpe Villa and Sheffield Wednesday flew out to Italy today and has manager, is poised to take over as manager at the City Ground. Sharpe, a former England Dave Bassett's future as the international, together with Forest manager is uncertain -Tomas Brolin, was the Yorkthe club have gone a record 17 shire club's record signing, Premier League games without costing the then manager, a win and crashed out of the FA Howard Wilkinson, £4.5m when Cup at the hands of Portsmouth

on Saturday. Atkinson's name has been linked with a possible return to management with Forest, but Soar said: "As far as I'm concerned the manager's position the timing of the fourth round remains unchanged. I know

nothing about Ron Atkinson. The Everton manager, Walter Smith, is ready to raid his former Glasgow opponents. Celtic, for the striker Simon Donnelly. The former Rangers manager is poised to open discussions with Donnelly to talk him into joining the Merseysiders either now or in

Smith could offer a nominal fee to Celtic for Doonelly of around £300,000 to sign him or wait until he is a free agent at the end of the season. Donnelly has rejected a new contract at Celtic and has been linked with Monaco, but a move to Everton is more likely.

ITV were yesterday unrepentant in the face of criticism from leading managers about

draw for the FA Cup. Sheffield Wednesday's Danny Wilson. and Bruce Rioch, of Norwich, complained after the draw was staged at 4pm on Sunday, while

the round three tie between their two sides was still taking However, Carol Millward, of TTV, insisted the channel was well within its rights to hold it immediately after the Port

Vale-Liverpool tie, which was screened live by the channel. "We have a contractual greement with the FA to show the draw and it made absolute sense that we show the draw at the end of our match, when the highest number of football fans

are watching," she said. "The FA were happy with the choice of slot. It was agreed with them that we would do it at that time and from a television point of view, it's the most obvious time to do the draw."

The former Crystal Palace midfielder Darren Pitcher is taking legal action against Huddersfield and defender Paul Reid, who has left the club. The Terriers, who have had a writ served on them by solicitors acting for Pitcher, insist they will defend any action.

The lawsuit has been filed after a challenge between the players in the match at the McAlpine Stadium on 31 August 31, 1996, which left Pitcher with damaged cruciate ligaments.

Two months ago, the Bradford striker Gordon Watson won a High Court claim for negligence against Huddersfield and their defender Kevin Gray after he suffered a hroken leg

Extra cameras not on ICC's agenda

THE INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council has said that it will not provide financial backing to any programme aimed at improving the third umpire system following a disputed and possibly crucial ruling in the fifth Ashes Test in Sydney.

joined Sampdoria on loan."

he moved from Manchester

United in 1996. However, a

serious knee injury set him

back and even when he was fit.

he fell out of favour with George

England may yet triumph but should they fail, Taufel's decision will be identified as the turning point in the deciding Test. However, the ICC is rejecting suggestions that it should invest in a scheme to set up four ground. Slater, on 35 at the time, fixed cameras level with the went on to make 123 out of a total

By Steven Baker

wickets at each side of the ing to see if we can make it stanground. "We're not looking to fund it at this stage," Clive Hitchcock, the ICC's cricket

operations manager, said. of 184, leaving the tourists needing 287 to win at the Sydney "There's a huge cost Cricket Ground and move level involved in doing it. Some counin the series at two games each. tries are going down that road and providing square-angle cameras at each end - South Africa have that and it is spon-

sored by Panasonic. "It's something that we're working on because some countries provide better facilities than others and we're look-

dard across the board.

"But it's the responsibility of the home board to provide camera angles in liaison with the host broadcaster and at this stage, we're not looking to fund it ourselves."

Repeated television replays made it seem Slater was short of his crease after the stumps were broken by Dean Headley's direct bit from deep mid-on. He was given the benefit of the doubt, but even the Australian opener believes it is time for

more cameras to be used to stop similar controversies. "If you're going to have the third umpire. then get the cameras in place

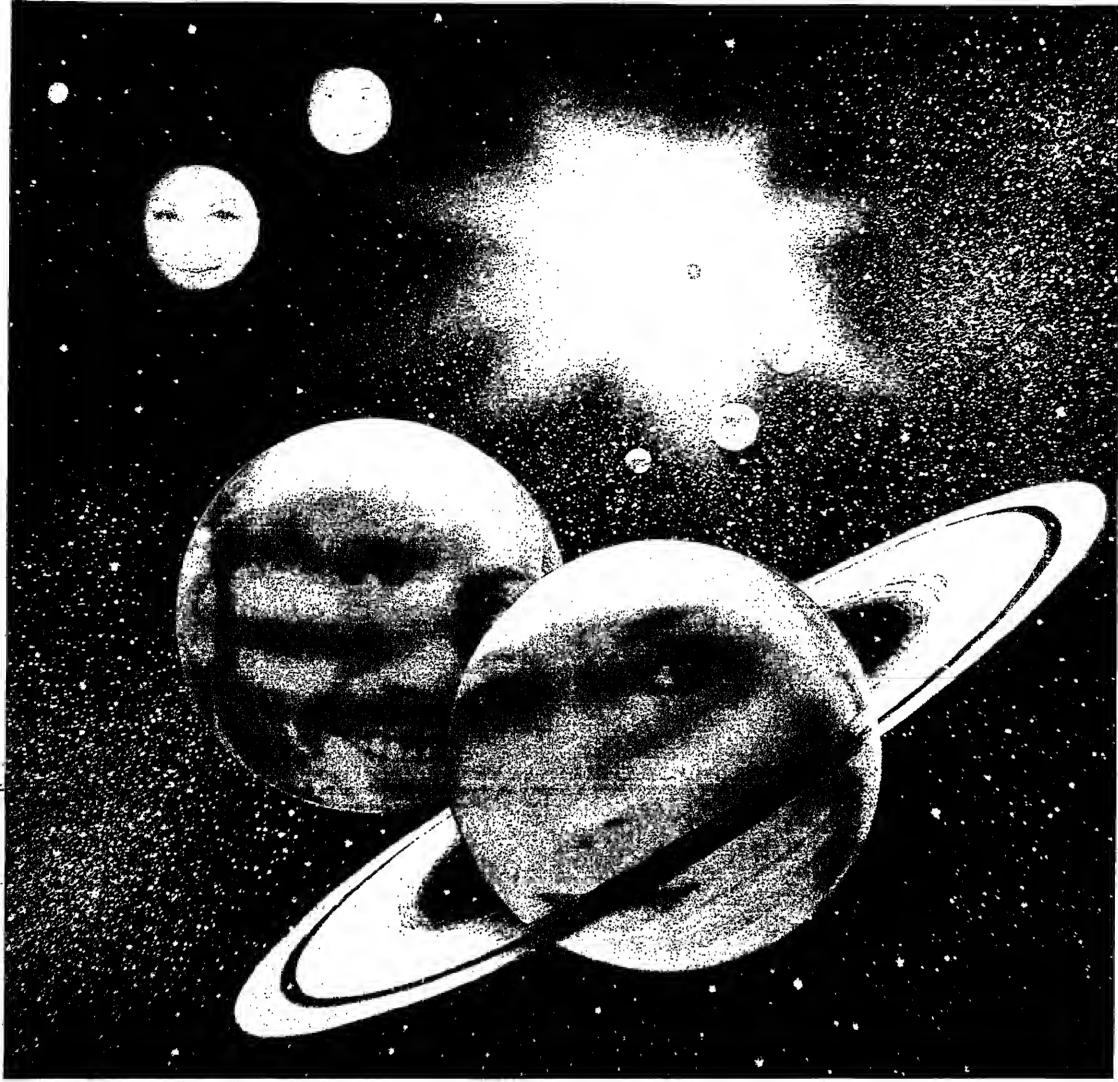
so it is conclusive," he said. Hitchcock added. "When the third umpire makes his decision, he's got to be 100 per cent sure that the batsman is out. If he's not, the benefit of the doubt goes to the batsman. I guess the guy has applied that when be's looked at the televi-

Derek Pringle. Henry Blofeld, page 22

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IUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



We are all of us in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars (top to bottom) Russell Grant, Shelley Von Strunckel, Jonathan Cainer and Marjorie Orr

What planet are you on? rame to a the draw between Copies Pales or Laurent Private Service Control of the Control of th

BY JOHN WALSH

gods, what a year. "Sorting out a more satisfactory emotional base" for my life was "the driving motivation" for the first half, while "high ambitions" took up the second. My. nearest and dearest were a shocking liability throughout. One"family member" acted in "erratic unpredictable ways" in February. A frankly knackering "social whirt" in early spring was followed by "a more demanding mood" in which everyone had "over-high expectations" of me, the fools. Everyone in my entire life seemed "on edge" in April, but then "joint finances" improved and I threw myself into a "secret romance" which, all too predictably, I'm afraid, made 20 April "sticky".

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I was "emotionally topsy-turvy" on 7 May but, bang on cue, "finances" improved again, once they were given my "wholehearted attention". My "sunny charm" knocked everyone dead in early summer, enabling me to keep my "hidden agenda" up my sleeve, before I legged it to "fly free" to "greener pastures". But sadly, by July my life had descended into turmoil once more: an eclipse of the sun warned me that "a career push" was "vital", and it was all I could do to stop myself being "distracted" by "emotional muddles". Sadly, my professional clear-sightedness didn't stop another bout of "sticky moments" and I strove unavailingly to "keep my temper steady", "hold to compromises", and "find a middle way between neither pushing too hard nor being pushed around".

My family, not surprisingly, found themselves "on tenterhooks" in August, as I flailed about in this socio-economic maelstrom, and the kindly attention of "close partners" was thwarted as they found, yet again, my "attention diverted to sorting out finances". Honestly, it's like being married to Gordon Brown. As the year drew to a close I narrowly avoided baving to "rub up against rather tricky people". and refused to "suffer fools gladly" around my birthday on 24 October, contenting myself with "pulling strings behind the scenes".

I certainly didn't want any "unresolved clutter", as I approached Christmas, and "getting finances into shape", when I'd rather have been out getting sloshed, meant I had to "resist the temptation to fly off the handle". But luckily I found "a gentle way of letting off steam" - possibly at the Priory in Roehampton - and ended the year bravely staring at "the momentous turning-point of the century".

Because, as you will have guessed, the year I've been looking back on with such drained exhaustion is 1999. I've just been reading Marjorie Orr's month-by-month horoscope in The Express for my life, right through this year, and by the time I reached the end. I felt like lying down in a cave until it was all over. It's not the "predictions" that bother me nothing concrete is predicted - it's the prevailing note of frantic emotional activity. According to the clairvoyant Ms Orr, I will spend the year on a rollercoaster of emotion, swinging between confusion and impotent fury, endlessly upset, bothered, undervalued and over-provoked by puzzling spouse and traitorous work colleagues, forever balancing the

You don't need to be Russell Grant to predict what sells papers in January. And you don't need to be Carol Vorderman to deduce that our dependence on the stars is not entirely logical. But all the signs are that horoscopes

account books and constantly defending myself against strange, unnameable crises.

I do not know Ms Orr, that I suspect she is the kind of friend we all need in a crisis - one of utter unflappable conservatism, whose conversation is a succession of emollient platitudes about casting no clout, taking the rough with the smooth, not throwing out the baby with the bathwater. She would never, you feel, be the one to say. "Oh for God's sake just leave the bastard", or "Of course you should take the job", or "Just try a little snort of this, you'll like it". For she is one of the nation's leading "sunstar columnists" as hack astrologers are sometimes called, and her function is to reassure - to whisper in her readers' ears that, although their lives are amazingly mouvementés, they must try not to be swept away by the stormy emotions and crazy scenes with which their days will be filled.

Astrology is an odd profession, beginning in Babylonian starlight, 4,000 years ago, made up of equal parts mathematic calculation, astronomy, pagan gods and post-event historico-psychology. It may seem a long way from the divinations of the ancients to the crystal balls of Marjorie Orr, but some things have never changed: the seriousness of its believers (who have included Hitler, Gandhi, Rupert Murdoch and the Abbey National Building Society), the money-spinning potential of its newspaper columns with their phone-line spin-offs (the late Patric Walker, Russell Grant and Mystic Meg have all been reported as earning £500,000 a year) and the extraordinary grip its cryptic bromides still exert on our imaginations. When the Darwinist Professor

Richard Dawkins trashed the whole subject of astrology in The Independent on Sunday in 1995, saying that its professional exponents should be jailed for fraud, the resulting correspondence filled

At this time of year, it's also a goldmine for newspapers and magazines. When the next 12 months will pitch us straight into a new century and into a whole thousand-year epoch, the whole business takes on a kind of epic urgency: the only thing bigger than the passage of centuries, millennia and eras is the firmament itself, whose stars have outlasted them all, and from which we try to learn what will become of us and how we should live.

Apart from being perhaps the only metaphysical impulse that most of the population will have embraced since the days of choir practice and Sunday school, astrology is also democratic. The stars that are common to all of us, that shone for both Julius Caesar and his chariot-minding slave, are the governing influences upon great and humble alike.

If Mars and Pluto (which rule Scorpio with dynamic and power-crazed ruthlessness, and are the reason girls give Scorpio chaps a wide berth at parties) are both in Sagittarius next September, playing hell with my capacity to make any money, though at least I can be comforted that the Prince of Wales (Scorpio, born 14 November) is in the same yacht. This accounts for the secondary phenomenon of early January - a rash of predictions of how the year will pan out for various "celebrities": how Zoe Ball will have a baby and Jerry Hall will win Continued on page 8

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have a future

A euro tactic for Tories

Sir: Steve Richards (Comment. 4 January)makes a poor Macchiavelli if he thinks that it is in Labour's interest to avoid "mid-term electoral misfortunes" by holding a snap referendum on joining the euro. This would be a godsend for the Tories, irrespective of success or defeat.

Defeat for the Government would be an obvious triumph against the odds for William Hague, but more importantly, success would allow Conservatives of all stripes to unite under a new leader (Michael Portillo?) with the message "We shouldn't have joined, but now there's nothing we can do about it."

The historic opportunity to push the Tories into third place has, I fear, been irretrievably lost; let us not start giving them a leg-up. JEFFREY EGGER

Sir: What is the "influence" that Euroenthusiasts claim we would have if we joined EMU? It would be the "influence" of one state in the 15 of the United States of Europe. No influence over monetary policy. Little discretion in fiscal policy, as the Stability and Growth Pact takes a large chunk of fiscal policy to the European level. One voice in 15 m setting taxes. I don't remember voting for dear Oskar. And so on, even as far as foreign and defence policy, though they still operate through unanimity - so far

Which is better, 100 per cent influence over one's owo country or 7 per cent influence over the United States of Europe? It seems pretty clear to me.

The sbeep-like call, "Can we afford to stay out?" disclays a large underlying dose of defeatism. I cannot see that a country with the fifth or sixth largest economy in the world is incapable of standing on its own two feet.

We should not join EMU. And, in the medium to long term, not joining EMU means not being in the EU, because our partners would not allow it. It is time to leave. Shake hands with them, wish them well, tell them we will stay in close contact, but set off into a new future. PETER GARDNER

Sir: Roy Jenkins (Saturday Essay, 2 January) has a selective memory if be believes the "yes", campaign in the 1975 referendum made it clear that our EU membership was of a political rather than an economic nature.

Doubters had been assured by Edward Heath that our continual membership would involve "no question of any erosion of national sovereignty". During the referendum campaign the Wilson government issued a pamphlet to electors entitled Britain's New Deal in Europe which stated that we would retain, "our freedom to pursue our own policies on taxation and on industry". JOHN BARNETT East Grinstead, West Sussex

Sir: In reply to Jonathan Dumbell's questions to Eurosceptics Cletter, 30 December). A single currency would expose companies and economies to market forces within Europe, and too rapidly to enable compensating mechanisms to be developed; result, Mr Dumbell falls over more beggars as he walks through London E15. Our continental cousins are not yet burdened with the "yoke of Brussels" in its mature pbases, obviously; their present advantages cannot be ascribed to an institution that does not yet exist.

This century has seen quite enough of the "chill winds of Teutonic efficiency" and history has some "pithy comments" on elements of that phenomenon, too.

For all that, "Eurosceptics" are not sceptical about Europeans, or trade, or about learning from others' virtues. We are sceptical only about the machinations of the power-hungry, British or foreign. HEON STEVENSON Centre for Legal Studies University of Sussex Brighton

Immoral artists

Sir: David Lister ("Can immoral artists produce great works?" 30 December) sees, in the decision made on behalf of female students to remove a hust of the alleged serial rapist Arthur Koestler, a slippery slope leading to "militant feminists" (who else?) demonstrating against Shakespeare and perhaps burning books by artists who were not "nice". I am grateful for being alerted to the danger inherent in letting that monstrous regiment get its way, but I do have niggling doubts.

First, it seems to me that to be a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Welsh Portraits No 2: farmer Caerwyn Roberts, of Merthyr Farm. Harlech, Gwynedd. Mr Roberts gives tours of the farm as well as demonstrations of sheep-shearing and sheepdog-handling on Tuesday and Thursday each week

serial rapist is not to be "imperfect" or not "nice", nor even to have affairs or to be involved in Cold War machinations (as the other artists mentioned were); it is not an aspect of one's private life, any more than murders committed in secret are of interest to the murderer

The distinction between text and writer has never been as pure as Lister insists. If it were, there would never have been a bust of the man (not a copy of his books) on display in Edinburgh. Nothing that the Edinburgh authorities have done need suggest that Koestler's texts should be shunned. It is just that this kind of personal honouring is

inappropriate. I suggest that all artists (like all journalists) are immoral, but some are more immoral than others, and that even "female students" can have a voice in discerning the distinction. PATRICK MORROW

Temples of Mammon

Sir: Your headline "Church of Mammon", above the letter from Mrs Alwyne Dean (31 December), about her experience of being asked to pay for admission to St Paul's Cathedral, is entirely appropriate. Though not at all unusual among cathedrals, St Paul's, located appropriately at the beart of the City of London, does reflect the mammonisation of the church in a

particularly symbolic form. I would not recommend it as a place of prayer, certainly not for shy persons or those in distress. No doubt strong and

secure Christians will insist on their right to pray to God without payment and will simply ignore the money-changers, but why should people have to go through this hassle to prove their credentials? It seems a kind of ecclesiastical equivalent of passport control.

I would not recommend people wbo wish to pray in church to go to St Paul's at

all. Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral is more prayerful; it is taken for granted that this is what the cathedral is for, and nobody will give you funny looks when you pray there. There is also St Vedast Church just across from St Paul's, which is a very prayerful space. The Rev KENNETH LEECH St Botolph's Church, Aldgate London EC3

Pregnancy is no crime

Sir. To represent teenage parents as "irresponsible and selfish children" (letter, 23 December) is not a method for reducing teenage pregnancies. It is, however, an easy way to make teenage parents feel worthless and isolated. Mr Startup's comments are an unhelpful addition to the amount of prejudice they already face and are reminiscent of the attitude many Conservative MPs have notoriously taken towards single mothers. Unplanned teenage pregnancy is a

social problem which needs to be addressed in a non-judgmental and realistic manner. With lower rates of teenage pregnancy than Britain, the secret of continental countries is surely not a moralising approach. How about more detailed sex education begun at an earlier age, or improved access to free contraception? Mr Startup would probably baulk at the suggestion that the morning-after pill might be available from Boots with a few words of advice from the pharmacist, but isn't it workable?

Investigating the influence of the consumer society, the education system and the family situation and then proposing solutions based on information not ignorance would be much more fruitful than condemnation. The closing words of Mr Startup's letter, "That might deter others," are the most offensive. using language that assumes that teenage pregnancy is a crime - and premeditated. VICKY MILNES Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire

Mandelson's project

Sir. Labour ministers attempting to make capital out of Peter Mandelson's resignation should think again ("MPs back Prescott over 'old values' ", 31 December). The electorate voted for new Labour and new Labour is what they expect in government.

Labour's "old values" - statist, parternalist, macho, hureaucratic and class-ridden - are deeply unattractive and unwanted. Tony Blair's project of modernising British society must be deepened in the coming year. Peter Mandelson's contribution to it should not be rubbished for one error of judgement.

New Labour's supporters must work with Tony Blair to complete four basic policies; democratising Britain through constitutional and electoral reform; strengthening the balance between enterprise and equality in the economy; a real ethical foreign policy (no more colonialist talk about cages, and stop tailing the US) and completing the revolution in new Labour by breaking the links with the trade unions and cementing a radical alliance with the Liberal Democrats.

Prescott and Co should remember that without new Labour they would not now be in government. The British people deserve the new politics which Peter Mandelson espoused: a free-enterprise, fair democratic and inclusive society. JOHN STRAWSON Landon N19

Serbia's lost war

Sir: Dr Michael Pravica, in his justification for repression in Kosovo (letter, 29 December), fails to recognise that this is a situation brought about by Serb nationalism.

It would have been possible to retain the autonomy allowed by Tito and to respect Albanian culture and language and to treat Kosovan Albanians as equal citizens in Yugoslavia. Then the present situation might not have arisen.

However, we are where we are. Serbia may be able to maintain, for a time and at great cost, control in the urban areas and the main roads. But I doubt if there is any going back. Kosovo is effectively lost to Serbia - which has never had more than a tenuous grip on much of the countryside.

Dr Pravica's solution is for the West to step hack and allow Serbia to "combat Albanian terrorism" and at the same time to relax sanctions in the hope that the "irresponsible leaders wbo destroyed Yugoslavia" may be replaced. I do not see bow handing Milosevic a free hand will weaken his regime.

Internal opposition to the present Serbian regime is growing. There is reaction to the clampdowns in the media and in higher education. Voivodina, which, like Kosovo, had autonomy withdrawn, is restive and has large Croat and Hungarian minorities. Montenegro is taking an independent line. Neighbouring successor states such as Croatia and Macedonia are seen to be, by comparison, increasingly_ prosperous and open societies.

westeru governments nave a variety of options, but these should not include allowing Serbla to use the methods seen at Vukovar and Srebrenica to suppress a legitimate desire for self-determination on the part of the Albanian majority. GRAHAM PERKINS Bromyard, Herefordshire

Sir: "Not even Christmas can halt the hloodshed" in Kosovo, writes Rupert Cornwell (Comment, 28 December). Cornwell should be informed that for the Serbs. Christmas will fall - as always for the Orthodox - at the end of the first week of January.

He adds that "monoethnic states ... are the only bricks with which to build the new Balkans". Someone please show Cornwell an ethnic map of the Balkans. In former Yugoslavia, only Slovenia was unore or less) ethnically homogeneous; every other area was and (even after ethnic cleansing) still is a bodge-podge. Easier to set up monoethnic boroughs in London than monoethnic states in the Balkans (or anywhere in Europe outside Iceland). Professor TOM PRIESTLY University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Stand by your words

Sir. When Steve Richards writes, "They sat around the top table, uncertain where they stood", I must conclude that he has been over-indulgent during the festive season (Comment, 1 January). However, I am aware that he will not take these remarks of mine lying down. MICHAEL KILYON Shipley, West Yorkshire

IN BRIEF

Sir: The article by Miles Kington on the joke alphabet (29 December) has made me wonder why the letters of the alphabet are in the order we know them. They are not in order of frequency of use, nor gronped in any way (vowels, labials etc). To say that our alphabet is derived from the Latin or the Greek does not answer the question, as they do not appear to be in any logical order either. Is there

an explanation for the order or is it as haphazard as it looks? J MICHAEL SHARMAN

Sir: Whatever else Benjamin Franklin achieved, he certainly did not barness electricity to our needs (leading article, 30 December). We draw our electricity from generators, not from the skies. Have you not

heard of Michael Faraday and Thomas Alva Edison? Nor should we forget the humble battery, a chemical source of electric current first devised by Franklin's friend Alessandro Volta in 1800. NAVIN SULLIVAN London N2

Sir: There is nothing new on the railways. Experts may regard the Virgin train running out of fuel as unprecedented (report, 4 January), but British Rail did it too. In the early 1970s my evening train stopped 100 yards short of Moreton-in-Marsh station for the same reason. A fuel gauge had jammed and nobody noticed that the engine had not used any fuel between London and Oxford!

Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire

Poor Di – vanquished again by a remorseless Camilla

YESTERDAY I brought you the develop, like a rare orchid. Or rare results of my research into the favourite boys' names of 1998 (based on the frequency of their appearance in the year's news headlines), and today we come to the most popular girls' names for

the same period. As I ponder 1997's winners, it strikes me that, apart from the predictable victory for Diana, there were several names which had never appeared on the list before and probably never will again. One of these was Tiggy, and for a moment I couldn't even remember the derivation of this name. Then, suddenly, it all came back to me. This was, of course, the name popularised by someone known in full as Tiggy Legge-Bourke, and is the sort of name that it takes the upper classes several bundred years to mushroom, perhaps.

Now, Tiggy was quite happy moseying along out of the limelight as a nanny - or something like that - to Prince Harry and Prince William, and she only ever became famous because those bounders in the press liked to suggest that there was a rivalry for the princes' affections between her and Diana. With Diana gone, of course, no more press interest in Tiggy Legge-Bourke. So, no more Tiggy

in the top 10 names. There is a similar pattern with Louise, a name that was in the news last year only because its owner, another nanny by the name of Louise Woodward, was on trial for murder in America. Louise, along with Myra, has again sunk way below the top 10 (except, oddly

enough, when used in conjunction with Thelma...)

This has been the first year for a while that the competition has not been dominated by Diana, or Poor Di. as she was latterly known. The name Harriet was a front-runner for a while, but that too has ebbed away, as have all the Spice Girls...

However, that's enough bitchy back-biting, girls, and let's get on to the moment that you have all been waiting for: the top 10 girls' names of 1998 (with 1997's position in brackets).

1 Camilla 2 Monica (-) 3 Ffion 4 Kate (-) 5 Fergie (8) 6 Nicole 7 Gaynor (-)



MILES **KINGTON**

Strangely, the critics were bowled over by the sight of Nicole Kidman taking her clothes off

8 Oprah 9 Cherie 10 Madeleine (-)

The presence of Nicole in the top surname that has been recycled, 10 is due entirely to the strange success of Nicole Kidman (aka Mrs Tom Cruise) in an adaptation of Schnitzler's La Ronde in the West End, where she vanquished all critical doubts, apparently, by taking her clothes off. We dwellers in the provinces were baffled by such unsophisticated behaviour. but if that's what gives the simple folk of London their kicks, they're

welcome to it. Incidentally, Nicole has only ever been in the top 10 once before, making an appearance thanks to a car commercial on television. I can't remember what the make of car was. A Renault Nicole, per-

haps? Perhaps not... Gaynor is an interesting case of a girl's name that sounds more like a boy's name or, perhaps, a are other pseudo-exotic chat-show

such as Meryl. Occasionally these names crop up on both sides of the sexual frontier. This year, for example. Fergie turned up on both sides of the divide, as in the Manchester United manager and the wife of Prince Andrew... Kate owes its popularity not to

any one person but to a whole plethora of Kates who have become big in showbiz, such as Kate Moss. Kate Winslet, Kate Bush... Indeed, I am convinced that Kate has replaced Emma as the all-purpose female showbusiness name,

On television there is a fashion for more exotic names when it comes to women presenting chat shows; the only one that has got into the top 10 is Oprah, hut bubbling just below the surface there names, such as Vanessa and Melinda and Zoe and Ruby... Looking a hit further down, we

come to some odd names such as Gitta, which has won 35th position. This is the first name of Gitta Sereny, a person who writes books about murderers, and is, presumably, an abbreviation of Birgitta, a form of Bridget. Bridget itself did well, coming in at number 13 - an effort that was based entirely on the success of Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary, the revelations of a young woman famous for her

inability to cope. Finally, I think the two oddest girls' names of the year were Arundhati and Dava, both of which had their best year yet. Indeed, both had their first year yet. Good luck to them - and to everyone else - for the coming year.

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The following the street of th

entry "undernocratic", they are talking nonsense. We voted for it when we endorsed the Maastricht Treaty. We chose the fate of our currency, and staked the future of our economy, by democratic decision. The Irish Independent

not hill us into a false sense of ity of German citizens remain security. In contrast to the old D-Mark, the new currency has ject of political elites, and not yet to establish the necessary of the corner groceries, the

MONITOR ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

European press verdicts on the launch of the euro

sceptical. The euro is the proeuro campaigners call Irish trust, particularly in the aware craftsmen or the pensioners.

THE EURO'S dream start must ness of the public. The major- There is barely another area of European policy in which the gulf between politicians and voters appears so wide.

Suddeutsche Zeitung,

euro is a revolution, an unprecedented voluntary surrender of national sovereignty. We owe monetary union to the vision and the determination of our leaders and central bankers. They have given us back some faith in politics. De Standaard, Belgium

THE COMMON currency will not solve the problems of the international financial crisis or the misery of the third world. Eleftherotipaa, Greece

problems of the European Union's social coherence. Furthermore, it will not constitute a panacea for the Greek economy's problems. Let's leave the other

Europeans to celebrate joining the euro and let us take care in the two years to come to reinforce our economy, to make our businesses more competitive and to emphasise social cohesion.

*THE INDEPENDENT

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Banishing a spin doctor will not cure Mr Blair's troubles

CHARLIE WHELAN'S resignation as aide to Gordon Brown casts doubt over the competence of the entire Blair administration. In a well run government, the fate of a press secretary should not make any difference to dayto-day businesa: actual policies, affecting the lives of every citizen, should dominate the minds of ministers.

The immediate cause of the resignation has been press speculation that he leaked the details of Peter Mandelson's loan from Geoffrey Rohinson: hut his departure is more aignificant than one official being caught out in the game of "spin". Mr Whelan was not just a press secretary. He was the Chancellor's general aide-de-camp and propagandist. The Chancellor's independent power base has become the problem, whether or not Mr Whelan has done wrong. There is a suspicion that the messenger is being shot, albeit a rather maverick one.

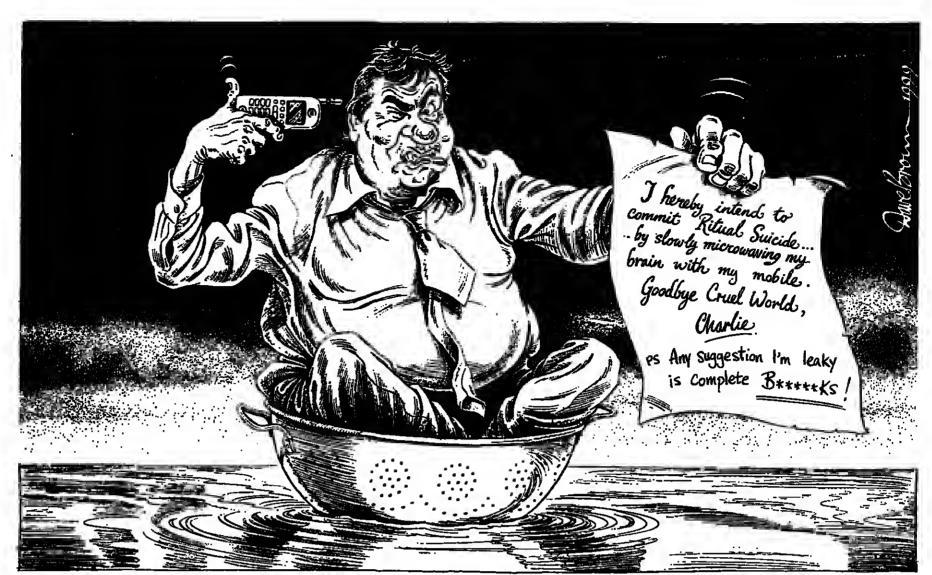
Coincidentally, correspondence between Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson has surfaced in the press, dating from the time of John Smith's death. Whatever its real source. the suspicion was bound to arise that Mr Brown or his staff had released it to damage Mr Mandelson. His well known hurt at not securing the Labour leadership means that whenever his rivals are damaged by media speculation, the finger of suspicion will inevitably point at him.

Mr Brown can continue to nurse his desire to be prime minister. But if he is seen to be doing so with his own alternative court centred around No 11, the damage to the Government will increase. Mr Whelan's departure will not change this, since he would not have done anything major without permission from his hoss; it was the Chancellor's wish to eliminate opposition that led to the quarrel with Mr Mandelson in the first place.

It is no good the Government complaining that the media has become "obsessed" with ministerial personalities. This is a real story. When the poison of hitter rivalry enters the Cabinet bloodstream, past experience shows that government can disintegrate. Margaret Thatcher was eventually brought down by the hatred she attracted by bullying ministers such as Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson.

Voters care about education, the economy and health care, not the minutiae of presentation, so New Labour's reliance on "spinners" was always going to land it in trouble. Everything that once seemed admirable about their media strategy is falling to pieces, with what seemed like skill now seen as manipulation. This is worse because Mr Blair and his advisers seem to rely on a network of old friends to do their work. There seems no sign that this will change; yesterday the Prime Minister appointed his old friend Lord Falconer to oversee the Millennium Dome.

. Ideological differences have abated since the dark years of continual Labour feuding, but that very lack of



divisive issues makes their rivalry all the more bitter. With no prospect of unilateral nuclear disarmament or nationalisation to argue over, Labour ministers are left to brief against each other's private lives.

Mr Blair may believe that this storm will abate, and plan to promote young Blairites such as Stephen Byers to deny Mr Brown's hopes of succeeding to the leadership, or to divide and rule his Cabinet. If so, he is mistaken. The time taken to establish credible leadership contenders would be spent in perpetual feuding.

The Chancellor's performance itself is on the whole admirable, while Labour's high opinion poll ratings demonstrate that its economic policies are popular. But the personal relationship between a prime minister and chancellor is also vital. This spin doctor's resignation raises hopes that Mr Brown may mend his ways, proving that he can act more responsibly. The hope must be that this is the first sign that the Government is turning away from "spin", and towards grown-up politics.

The struggle to be the champion of football

SEPP BLATTER, president of football's world governing hody, Fifa, has suggested that the World Cup should be held every two years. One immediate objection to this is that the idea is part of the struggle for power between Fifa, the governor of global football, and the different Continental authorities such as Uefa, the European governing body. Football rivairies are becoming more virulent as the amount of money involved increases: yesterday Jack Wiseman, for 15 years the chairman of the English Football Association, was forced to resign after being accused of trying to buy seats on Fifa's executive council.

We should look at the principles behind the proposal, rather than focusing on the rivalries surrounding it. There is nothing wrong in marketing football's most valuable prod-

uct so that it makes maximum money for the game. A world game needs a world authority; Fifa is right to restrain regional empire-huilding.

Commercialisation is a natural part of the improvements football has made over the last few years. Top-level football may now cost more to watch, but hooliganism has mostly been banished from a new generation of stadia bought with new advertising revenue. Eliminating the pointless "friendlies" that litter the season, and replacing them with meaningful qualifying games, could also be a bonus.

Even so, football bosses should beware of devaluing their product. With the Champions League, the domestic League and Cup, regional qualifying competitions and the World Cup itself, top players could find themselves playing too many games. At that level of fitness, small injuries will never have time to heal. Football fans who instinctively warm to the idea of more football should remember that they may be forced to watch their heroes limp around the world, playing worse football the more they compete.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This obsession with heing happy is one of

the curses of Western civilisation.

Glenda Jackson,

politician and former actress THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The public weal requires that men should

betray, and lie, and massacre."

Michel de Montaione.

French essauist

Please sir, may I take my children on holiday to the Seychelles?

Seychelles. Not from boliday, but from the Seychelles. These islands ("palmfringed" to quote Nick Clarke of the BBC) are, one senses, thought to be too good for a Labour Prime Minister's family; they should be reserved for those professionals, whose status and hard work qualifies them for a sojourn on powdery beaches, where they will drink mango juice in their hammocks, served by equally palm-fringed

Now, either Charlie Whelan was up to his tricks again, or someone had been doing their sums, for it was very publicly discovered that the three Blairlings were skipping four whole days of school between them so as to complete their Seychelles vacation. Not only that, but Mr John McIntosh, the head of the Oratory School which the Blair boys attend, seemed to cast doubt on whether Tony and Cherie had notified the school of the impending absence. He seemed quite put out, and was quoted, reminding the world: "I say to parents they must observe the three Hs - haircuts, holidays and

homework'." Does he really say such sility things? As the old gag goes, most kids could observe homework all day - but what is it with the haircut fetish? Perhaps Mr McIntosh stuffs cushions for the deprived with the locks of the fortunate, who are selected to attend his school. But I doubt it. Not for the first time, I suspect, Mr Blair will be wishing that he'd sent his sons to one those nice discreet public schools where the

TONY BLAIR'S children, as the whole work knows, return bouight from the made ft. clear that Cherta, the morne, wrote a note to the Oratory yonks ago, giving notice of the upcoming

Seychelles adventure. What messed it up for the Blairs is that - as they disported themselves on the Seychelles (sorry, did I say, "Seychelles" again?) - the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, let it be known that he was actively considering legislation to prevent parents from taking their children out of school for trips ahroad and suchlike. Mr Blunkett was responding to worries expressed by David Hart, the head of the Heads Union, and therefore, educationally, the copo di tutti copi.

Alas, as soon as the Blair/Seychelles/term-time holiday scandal broke, this alliance between government and educationalists fell apart. Mr Hart accused the Prime Minister of not setting "a good example" (yes, he really did. Unbelievable. isn't it?). Our old friend, Nigel "Giggles" de Gruchy, General secretary of the NAS/UWT, thought it was a good example - but only of "why politicians should keep their mouths shut and not lecture other parents". He went on, They try to tell teachers how to run schools and end up being embar-rassed themselves." We all know, don't we, whose job Mr de Gruchy thinks it is to lecture parents and to

run schools. It's his. What is interesting for me in this case (besides the unintentional comedy) is that the issue behind it lies slap on the fault line between my warring communitarian and libertarian inclihead doesn't talk like Captain nations. In other words, what should

DAVID **AARONOVITCH**

It is daft to suggest that the young Blairs missing school today will jeopardise their education

I be rendering Caesar and what may I decide for myself, according to my own inclinations? For parents, school provides one of the greatest tests of discerning the border between private

and social behaviour. We resolved one key issue years ago, and it was in Caesar's favour: parents are not permitted not to educate their children. That's why there are no brochures and magazine articles advertising the best ways to bring your kids up ferally. In addition to this one core restriction on parental freedom, we add many others smaller ones. And I am happy to go along with them. My children are almost never late, homework is done on time, I would support the teacher where he or she was taking action against bullying - even if this involved my own child; and (most terrequested to, making a huge, messy model of a him by Egyptian shody. while simultaneously attempting to ex-plain to my daughter the principles of

balance and leverage.

I do all this partly because I can see what the social consequences would be if I didn't. But in one respect I too am a sinner. Like Tony Blair, I will take the kids out of school for the odd day or two in order to go on holiday. Our household is also one where both parents work full time, in jobs whose rhythms are not determined by the changing of the seasons. Finding a clear period when neither of us is working is increasingly difficult. But the times and durations of school holidays in Britain were set when there was still a harvest to be hrought in, mother was still at home, the patterns of people's lives were roughly similar, and money - not time - was

at a premium. Attitudes were different then, too.

I seem to feel a greater need to spend whatever time I do have with the children than my own father did (catch him struggling with a shaduft. So I have not, until now, felt guilty about taking the kids out of school, if necessary. Quite the opposite. My children won't miss out because we will ensure that they read, write, divide and - all else failing - catch up, before going

back to school. Besides, families like mine are not the problem. In London's Tower Hamlets, a generation of young Bengalis are having their education jeopardised by, among other things, returning to Bangladesh for long, term-time holirible of all) I will spend hours, if days. These kids are disadvantaged

enough to begin with, without skipping tant sections of the curricuhim. It is daft to suggest that the young Blairs missing school today is somehow on a par with this form of absenteeism. That was presumably one reason why No 10, when dealing with the story, pointed out that Mr Blunkett had been talking only about longer

absences from school. But No 10 was wrong. Increasing numbers of parents are doing what we do, because they face the same pressures (and are aware of the same savings to be made by booking out of season). And when everyone starts doing what previously only a few did. you begin to get problems. Teachers find themselves standing in front of half-empty classrooms, or repeating lessons; school plays, concerts, sports, and other events that require constant term-time commitment suffer. That's

what Mr B was talking about. Now of course we (Tony and I) can be confident in our own judgment about the few days our children are away, and can set that against the immense gain to our family lives. My libertarian self says that this is really the only judgment that counts. Yet if the social sousequences of an aggregation. of such behaviour (bear with me) are malign, then my communitarian self argues for restrictions on my own freedom of action. If there needs to be a

rule, then I need to obey it. If there needs to be. The corollary of this - the communitarian codicil, if you like - is that when there doesn't need to be a rule, then for God's sake don't make one - especially not about haircuts. The three Hs indeed!

THE INTRODUCTION of the It's not even going to solve the

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PANDORA

WHAT NEXT for Charlie Whelan after the Chancellor's spin doctor put his head on the block yesterday? It is well known that Whelan has a passion for football and, it is said, would love to get involved with the Football Association. Conveniently, the FA is currently in upheaval after the resignations of chief executive Graham Kelly and chairman Keith Wiseman. One Blairite wag suggested to Pandora yesterday that, if Whelan were to become the FA's chief, why shouldn't Gordon Brown's other top adviser, the aptly-named Ed Balls, accompany him - as the new FA chairman?

THE LID appears to have

come off Transport Minister Glenda Jackson's longrumoured campaign to be Mayor of London. Her battle to win her own party's nomination, followed by the votes of ber fellow Londoners, began in earnest in yesterday's Doily Mail with a full page profile of the MP for Hampstead and Highgate. Not long ago. the Mnil's sister publication at Associated Newspapers. the Evening Standard. gave Glenda a rather poor "electability rating" as mayoral candidate, hut yesterday she was said to have achieved a great deal" and to be in "no mood to ease up on herself". Of the Mayor's office. Glenda was quoted as saying: "It's a joh I would love to do. hut we'll have to wait and see if anyone wants me to do it". A source close to Glenda told Pandora yesterday that the race was "all a question of timing; the successful candidate will be playing a long game".

PANDORA WAS surprised to hear Andrew Marr, the political columnist, on Radio 4's Today programme exclaim, regarding the launch of the new European singlecurrency: "Britain has butted out." Hailing the birth of the euro as "the most important political and economic event since the falling of the Berlin Wall", Marr moaned: "Sadly. we have not been in there national interests." However, Pandora's

colleagues on this newspaper recall Marr taking a very different line in the past - including the period when he was editor of Independent. "So what should decent patriotic hut European do?" be

politicians December. 1996. "The first United is to create time and space for serious thought about the options facing us." More recently, in April 1997, Marr wrote that: "Major has been proven right, first in negotiating the singlecurrency opt-out, and second in sticking by his official line of 'negotiate, then decide'." Aren't these exactly the policies that the Government is taking, which Marr calls "butting out"?

PANDORA HAS a suggestion for England's batters as they face Australian spinner Shane Warne today in their hid to score 183 runs for victory. The Aussie player happens to be rather sensitive about his weight. At the opening of his own sports cafe in Melbourne earlier this year, when journalists questioned him about the fact that he seemed a bit hefty. Warne visibly lost his composure. In view of the fact that it was the Australians who invented the art of "sledging" – that is, vocally abusing their opponents surely it would be fair dnes if the England team were to toss a few choice remarks at Mr Warne.

WHICH MODERN American artist produced the largest body of religious art? Andy Warhol (pictured), according to Jane Daggett Dillenberger, an art historian, left behind more than 100 "sacred" works, most of them dauhed in the months leading up to his death, 12 years ago. In her new book, The Religious Art of Andy Warhol, Dillenberger reproduces previously unseen works, such as the painter's 30ft-long version of Da Vinci's The Last Supper, in which Christ and his disciples are accompanied by motorbikes, and another in which the holy feast is punctuated by the logo of a popular US hrand of potato crisps.

FANS OF Hollywood action films have been dreaming about this meeting for years, but when Jeau Clande Van Damme came face to face with Steven Seagal for the first time, no bone-crushing kong fu

not a single karate blow struck in anger. In fact, the meeting took place on the Caribbean island of St Bart's last weekend, aboard the 168ft yacht belonging to producer Keith Barish,

and. according to all reports, the two rival celluloid gladiators got along a publicists nightmare!

Crude, violent – but quite brilliant

FOR MANY years, it has been an established fact of national life that anyone who has edited the humorous magazine Punch will himself lose his sense of bumour. It was Malcolm Muggeridge, a former Punch editor, who first identified this phenomenon in his essay "Tread softly for you tread on my jokes" and subsequently exemplified it by becoming a grouchy, marginal figure forever grizzling on about the amount of sex people were having and how all be longed for was the day when he would meet his Maker

To judge by recent pronouncements, David Thomas, the man who presided over the death throes of Punch in 1992 (it was later revived as the Fayed house magazine), is no exception to the rule. This weekend, he excitedly seized upon a warning sent to parents of children at a minor public school in Cambridgeshire about the moral dangers of the hit record "Chocolate Salty Balls" by Chef and of South Park, the television programme from which it was taken. Here was yet another case. Thomas argued, of TV producers peddling filth to the young. It was all part of the dangerous downward



TERENCE BLACKER

Watching an unforgettable 'South Park', I realised it had some undeniably disgusting moments

spiral to which drugged-up, ignorant teenagers, divorced one-parent families and cynical trendies in the media were contributing. Something was going - altogether now -"terribly, terribly wrong".

There's a danger of over-reaction here. Thomas's sermon appeared in one of those middle-class tabloids in which the honest, solid values of decent, God-fearing folk are

portrayed as being under siege from the forces of disorder and permissiveness. As is traditional on these occasions, the writer was photographed with his lovely young family looking protective and concerned at the threat of Chef and his appalling chocolate salty balls.

Yet I found myself taking it personally. As it happens, I spent much of Christmas dinner discussing with my 15-year-old niece our favourite moments from one of the most unforgettable South Purk episodes, "Mr Hankey, the Christmas Poo". There will be those who might argue that teenagers should be discouraged from watching a cartoon story in which a small, apparently dysfunctional, Jewish boy with something of a faecal hang-up is locked away in a mental home, only to be vindicated when his fantasy figure Mr Hankey (a festive turd) not only turns out to be real hut also unites the parents at South Park School, However, as we enjoyed the episode on video later that afternoon, it seemed to me that, though brilliantly satirising parental anxiety, psychiatry and political correctness, it also had some

undeniably disgusting moments my niece was showing encouragingly good taste. After all, she could have been watching the bleary, sozzled sentimentality of Men Behaving Badly or even the smug, clever-dick sanctimoniousness of Have I Got News For You?

It is, I suppose, the incipient violence of programmes such as South Park that some people disapprove of They point in particular to a running gag, repeated in almost every episode, involving the regular and ever-varying demise of a small, pathetic character called Kenny (who was spared, in a nice seasonal touch, for the Mr Hankey episode). Doubtless the same viewers are inexplicably shocked by the regular, absurdly over the top violence contained in another classic of modern television, Bottom.

What makes all this genuinely puzzling is the fact that, in feature films, torture and death have not only become acceptable to audiences but, without the release of the cartoonish idiocy contained in South Park or Bottom, are presented as witty, ironic, cool parts of the entertainment. When I first saw

Reservoir Dogs, some members of the audience actually whooped with delight with every new shooting and evisceration. And while, three years later, I laughed along with everyone else at the scene in Pulp Fiction when John Travolta accidentally (and with hilarious consequences) blows out the brains of a passenger in a taxi, it occurred to me that something sinister and depressing had happened. In the past, violence had played a part in many of the great films - A Clockwork Orange, Apocolypse Now, Blue Velvet and so on - hut now it was cue for a cynical, knowing laugh, a cheap thrill.

Anyone who doubts the dangers of this trend might consider the case of the celebrity thug Vinnie Jones. a footballing hard man who has exploited a reputation for brutality on and off the pitch to become a screen idol - specialising, of course, in violence. A real person, and role model for young football fans. becomes the toast of the town while headteachers and former Punch editors fret about a well written and morally serious cartoon. It would make excellent material for a future episode of South Park.

Why should taxpayers prop up our inefficient farmers?

IS THE European Common Agricultural Policy the notorious CAP, on its way out? Our agriculture minister, Nick Brown, has called a summit of British farmers, food industry leaders, consumer groups and environmentalists in London next week to discuss some very radical changes. This will be followed up in March by a meeting of all the EU's farm ministers, who, it is expected, will demolish a major pillar of the CAP, namely, farm price support. By the Spring, governments should have agreed to reforms that will force European grain and beef farmers to operate in future at world prices. This will mark a historic shift that will affect us all.

This move will be welcomed by consumers and food processors. Less welcome - I suspect I part company with many farmers and their mand that they receive compensation for price cuts, and that public funds must be substituted for reduced price support. By bolding prices above market-determined levels, the CAP has produced surpluses - disposal has become a major hurden on public funds.

Farmers are demanding compensation for the costs taxpayers have had to incur to protect high prices. To he fair, the European Commission has proposed that there should be ceilings placed on the total payments received by an individual farm. In Eurospeak this is known as "modulation", and is sensible. But British farmers are fighting fiercely to prevent any change.

Farmers are concerned about the impact on their incomes. It is hardly surprising. Reform is being driven by a rapidly changing world; increasingly the freeing-up of world trade is bearing down on agriculture. Farming, like all other industries. has to come to terms with the in-



SEAN RICKARD

The logic is inescapable. In order for some farms to expand, it is necessary for other farms to fold

creasing competitive pressures involved in these changes. It must recognise that income subsidies are not only a misuse of taxbayers funds but are eventually self-defeating, as they breed inefficiency and a reduced ability to compete.

The more exposed farmers are to world markets, the greater the need for economic stability in their production costs. That is, rather than the roller-coaster ride of the last 20 years, farmers desperately need currency stability, low inflation and low interest rates. In fact, they need the UK to join EMU sooner rather than later. We can but hope that as the UK prepares for membership of EMU, the world's financial markets are restrained from causing the pound to fluctuate widely between the euro and dollar.

Farmers, and their representatives, see incomes as the key influence on the number and size distribution of farms.

But there are more powerful forces at work. The farming industry, just like any other industry, is driven by two fundamental forces: technology; and knowledge. Over a

period of time these forces combine to replace labour with capital and also steadily to increase the economically viable size of farm enterprises. Once this is recognised, it follows that policies designed to arrest the decline in the number of farms will compromise the industry's potential competitiveness.

Over the coming years technology will raise yields; it will encourage further substitution of capital for labour and will continue to increase the economically viable scale of production. Farms that are efficiently managed and have the scale and enterprise to invest to meet changing conditions face a more promising outlook than is represented by the "static" picture of taking last year's fall in farm incomes as a measure of the industry's prospects.

Once the issue of reform is viewed from an ind the question of individual farm size is thrown into relief. Some 75 per cent of UK agricultural production comes from just 25 per cent of farms. These are our efficient farms; they are, in practice, the farming industry. Smaller-scale farms should be no more a concern than small businesses in other sectors of the economy. If incomes are low because these farms are too small to be viable, that is a social, not an industry issue. The numbers of smaller farms bave been steadily declining for many years; the CAP has slowed the rate of decline for these farms but it has proved unable to halt the technology-driven trend towards larger, more capital-intensive farms.

The logic is inescapable. In order for some farms to expand, it is also necessary for others to fold.

This process of creative destruction is not unique to farming; it is st the heart of economic develcoment and rising living standards. The harsh truth is that an industry



Rolling farmland can still make good returns David Hughes

will never have the incentive to with full compensation will not immethods of production if its entrepreneurs are guaranteed a living by the state. If all farms, large and small, demand and receive compensation the cost to the taxpayers will be enormous and the end result must be attempts by the EU to slow down the pace of reform.

This raises a paradox for the UK farming industry. Its larger-scale producers are highly efficient and bence potentially highly competitive. Yet they can fully exploit this advantage only if the pace of reform quickens. World markets, despite last year's sethack in Asia, are developing rapidly, and in order to gain reasonable shares of these fastgrowing markets, the EU must speed up the pace of reform.

Far from aiding competitiveness government subsidies remove incentives to be efficient. In the case of larger farms, who do not need the The author is a former chief econsubsidy, these payments are channelled into land and asset purchases, which increases the cost base. Providing smaller-scale farms

strive for more efficient, cheaper prove their ability to compete but it will slow down their rate of exit from the industry. Many of these smaller scale farms are "managed" by a farmer who, in the vast majority of cases, will be leaving the industry over the next 10 years. Only a small proportion will be succeeded by their children. Full compensation for such farms may be justified as a social payment but it should not be used as an excuse for providing full compensation to larger farms.

Confusing social issues with production has blighted British and European farming alike for decades. Soon, though, the European Union may do the unthinkable and allow the industry to compete with world markets. Uncomfortable - for the inefficient - it will be, but this is the only real security for future generations of farmers.

omist for the National Farmers Union; he is now director of the executive MBA at Cranfield School of Management

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The dangers of English chauvinism THE UNITED Kingdom that the UK's Constitution,

of how we govern ourselves is being changed, in some cases fundamentally. And yet, there is a sense that the Govern- of the fact. And, in a sense, it ment, lacking as it does a log- is merely following a long ical hlueprint for reform, has embarked on a constitutional iourney which has all the hallmarks of a mystery tour, to a destination unknown.

The effect of the constitutional changes in Scotland. Wales, Northern Ireland and London will inevitably increase their political bargaining power with Westminster. They will lobby hard to retain or increase the proportion of tax revenues which they enjoy. The consequence for the Engfish regions is that - without the political clout which regional government would give - they

If we accept that there is a strong case for regional government in the English regions, what form should it take, what powers should it have, and bow should it fit in with other, existing levels of government?

We must begin by accepting

is embarking on a con- even when reformed, will owe stitutional revolution, more to Heath Robinson than Virtually every aspect to a Jefferson or Hamilton.

This Government has no coherent vision for a reformed constitution. It is almost proud British tradition of patch-andmend pragmatism rather than logical or theoretical hlueprints. If we accept a rolling programme of English regional government as part of the patchwork quilt which forms the British constitution, what would regional government in

England look like? The initial powers for regional assemblies would, I suggest, have many similarities with those of the Welsh Assembly, without the powers to make secondary legislation. They would have responsibility for health, education, housing, planning, transport, economic development, sport and the arts. This list immediately raises the question of the region's relationship with local government. There is a potential danger of conflict between

the two, particularly if the Gov-

ernment proceeds to enable

local authorities to have pow-



PODIUM

DICK NEWBY From the Wainwright lecture by the Liberal Democrat peer to his party's Yorkshire and Humberside Conference

erful elected mayors - and recent polling evidence gives strong support to this proposal. But I see the role of the region essentially to be to set out a regional strategy in the policy areas for which it is responsible, and to take over from the unelected and barely accountable regional offices of government departments the used to best effect. This would the worst kind.

permit greater flexibility to respond to regional needs.

A regional assembly would of course be elected, and there are the usual compelling arguments for doing this by STV [single transferable vote] in multi-member constituencies. Should the assembly have taxraising powers? The arguments for doing so are very strong. Tax-raising power is at the heart of all political power and, if regional assemblies really are going to have some degree of independence from Whitehall, an ability to raise at least part of their revenue directly has great appeal. The range of taxes which could be deployed sensibly at regional level is, however, quite limited.

The Scottish Parliament will be up and running in six months' time. Belatedly, English parliamentarians are scurrying round trying to agree the response. The Conservatives are half proposing a separate English Parliament which would mirror the Scottish Parliament. I would strongly oppose a new English Parliament. It would run the risk of responsibility for ensuring that becoming a depository of chaugovernment expenditure is vinistic English nationalism of

Equally, I do not helieve that it will be acceptable to English MPs - or Lords - to have Scottish participation in debates and votes on English (or English and Welsh) legislation. The resolution of this problem is, I believe, to be found using the model which Liberal Democrats use, Each debate at conference is either a federal or an English debate. When it is a Federal debate everyone can participate. In an English debate, only English representatives can. The same procedure should be adopted at Westminster

How do we achieve regional government? It will not come without a struggle. This Government is not committed to it, and the Tories are opposed.

Some commentators are coming round. Jeremy Paxman, in his book on the English. concludes: "New nationalism is less likely to be based on flags and anthems. It is modest, individualistic, ironic, concerned with cities and regions as with counties and countries. In an age of decaying nation states it might be the nationalism of the future." But

then, Jeremy Paxman is a Yorkshireman!

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The slow burn of the euro



HAMISH **MCRAE**

Money is the strangest of commodities. Sometimes it moves fast; other times. with glacial slowness

IT IS hard, on this occasion, not to agree with Charlie Whelan.

The soon-to-depart press secretary of the Chancellor said yesterday that it "could not be right" that his own activities should attract more press attention than the launch of the euro. In 25 years' time the brief Whitehall career of a press officer will hardly warrant a footnote in the history of politics in the UK - it will get the footnote only if it becomes an early sign of the unravelling of what appeared to be a promising government

The euro, on the other hand, will be a major feature in the history books for generations to come. At one extreme, children may be learning that the year 1999 was a key date in the creation of the United States of Europe, just as 1776 was a key date in the creation of the United States of America. At the other extreme, they may learn that this was the equivalent of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, a botched political decision that helped to push Europe along a slide to catastrophe.

Or maybe (and this is my own expectation) they will learn that it was an interesting monetary experiment, like the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate system of 1944, that worked for a while reasonably well and then fell to hits after lasting less than a generation.

Yesterday everyone involved with the euro was congratulating each other at its smooth launch. In fact there were only two things that might have gone wrong. One was some kind of technical failure as a result of loading a new currency on to the computers of the world's banks. It didn't, which is unsurprising when you consider the considerable technical competence of big banks. They are terrific at the in lending billions to Russia (or whoever) that they screw up.

some kind of speculative attack. For example, the irrevocable locking together of European currencies might encourage holders of one (say the Italian lira) to bail out and pile into another (say the German mark) on the grounds that the locking together might not be so irrevocable after all. But the fact that this, too, failed to happen is also unsur-



A Parisian artist joins in yesterday's celebratory parade in the French capital to mark the smooth launch of the euro

Pascal Pavnni/AFP

prising, for there is no reason why it should happen now as opposed to in a year or two.

Money is the strangest of commodifies, Sometimes it moves with astonishing speed: currency rates change, interest rates change, stock-market prices soar and plunge, giant projects are financed, countries default on their debts. All this can happen in a few minutes. occasionally in a few seconds.

At other times it moves with glacial slowness. Those of us who were taught our economics in the Sixties were told that currencies were fixed together and also fixed to gold. That was the world system, a global agreement that had underwritten the post-war recovery by giving international traders the lity that they needed currency to plan production, trade and so on. This was in contrast to the bad old The second was the possibility of days of the inter-war period when currencies floated, countries devalued to obtain a compelitive advantage, protectionism rose and

trade collapsed. Tensions within this system were evident almost immediately, for sterling was over-valued and had to be devalued in 1949. Strains increased during the Sixties and the

the key lesson is that it took years for those pressures, which were evideot at the start, to break through, Political will can resist financial forces for a long time.

So it is terribly important now to goore both the hype and the hatred: that the euro project is bound to be a success because it has started so smoothly, or that it is bound to fail because the people at the European Central Bank are incompetent.

Both views are wrong. Even if it runs smoothly for many months, even years, that does not ensure its survival. However, even if it were managed moderately incompetently, it could still last for years. The economies of developed countries are pretty robust animals: you can throw quite a lot of incompetence survive. Look at the way they scramhled through the collapse of the fixed rate system and the great inflation of the Seventies and Eighlies.

So what should we think? Leave aside for the moment the contentious Issue of whether Britain should join, which is really a separate decision involving sovereignty as well as finance and economics What we should try to do is to see system finally fell to bits in 1972. But this venture in a long historical con-

text and then - in the months and years ahead - look for clues as to how the advantages it confers and the tensions within it will play out.

The euro represents a powerful unifying force in an area that has not had a single currency for some 1,500 years - not since the Roman empire. The fact that the money is the same on different sides of a border inevitably binds the economies on each side more closely together. So the continental European economy will inevitably become more closely

integrated as the years go by. This inevitability stems from (sorry about the expression) price and wage transparency - the fact that both companies and individuals will be able to see the differences in wages and prices in different parts of the Continent. Sure, at the moment anyone with a calculator can work this out pretty fast, but not having to work it out at all really does change things.

How will transparency affect Europe? Well, of course we have no folk memory of the Roman empire. but we can look back at the early Fifties here, before the surge of international trade changed our lives. Things we bought were made here: if you wanted a car or a TV set you bought a British one because that was the only sort available. Now it is impossible to huy either.

But not all services are similarly traded. We still have bank accounts, mostly, in British banks. So continental Europe will be faced with a wave of cross-border trade not just in goods but also in services. Companies that are uncompetitive (like our car makers) will gradually disappear. Companies that are good will tend to take over. The single European market will make another leap forward, and though there will be winners and losers the overall efficiency of the European economy will undoubtedly rise as a result.

This will create tensions. To take another analogy, look at our local high streets. Stand in Inverness and you see the same stores as you do in Plymouth. That hor has oot yet happened on the Continent, but it will. Will Europeans feel comfortable about the practical aspects of economic integration, in particular the fact that local companies may fail as outsiders come in?

People will move more, too, as individuals can compare wages more directly and companies can more easily scour a larger market for talented staff. Again, the overall economic effect will he for more

efficiency, but will cootinental Europeans feel comfortable about the migration that will result - "their" people losing jobs to outsiders? I suspect that in the early years of the euro, these practical tensions

will prove more difficult to contain than the more abstruse concerns about an interest rate being set by a committee in Frankfurt, rather than by a local central bank or finance ministry. Look 10 or more years forward and the pressure could become enormous. But if euroland does get through the next three years and succeed in exchanging all the marks, francs. lire and so on for euros, then do not expect the thing to break up swiftly thereafter.

Money is only money. People do different kind of the stuff in their pockets and their bank accounts. We have, after all, had to adapt to the fact that our money now is worth less than 10 per cent of what it was worth 30 years ago. That is a much higger adjustment than the shift from one currency to another.

So what happens in the next few weeks is no guide, positive or negative, to the future. Beware the euro-euphoria. Beware, too, the

RIGHT OF REPLY

HILARY WAINWRIGHT



The editor of 'Red Pepper' replies to David Aaronovitch's article on splits in the Government

DAVID AARONOVITCH is wrong to assume that plotting and jostling for position are all that we'll see in the aftermath of Peter Mandelson's resignation, and that Tony Blair's charisma will win through.

Prescott's efforts to exploit a mood of disaffection with New Labour point to deeper political forces than be or other cabinet ministers can control. MPs. councillors, party memhers and trade unionists generally have gained a moral confidence to speak out where before they suffered in silent anxiety.

This stems not only from Mandelson's fall but also from what his aspirations and the Prime Minister's extravagant sympathy towards them) reveal about New Labour, Mandelson's desire to live in swankyland, a desire so strong that all his renowned acumen was thrown to the wind, is a striking metaphor for New Labour. With his half-millionpound house, Mandelson is saving: "Look, I'm ooe of you; I'm a Labour minister without any hang-ups about associating with the filthy rich - in fact I prefer them to people who live dirt cheap." Meanwhile, the Government's policies are saying to the rich: "You're all right with us."

Charlie Whelan's efforts to

make the Chancellor look like an all-year Father Christmas have provided a camouflage. But low renewals of party membership teven in Sedgefield, I hear) and opinion polls signs that the camouflage is wearing thin. The Prescott-Brown alliance may be evoking the mantra of "traditional values" to advance its own position, and also provide cover for a government whose moral character is in question with its own supporters. But the sounds they give off as they jostle encourage more radical pressures for change.

A place of secrets and wives

Fitzgerald's marrisge would have gone on if he had not died in 1940. "The

Films of Richard Egan" charts Egan's

disappointing career and sees in it a

rrs NOT all jam being a man these days. Pilloried in the media for our risible shortcomings, we can't even respond by being strong and silent. Strong and silent gets you no points any more. Sensitive and articulate is the thing - not our forte. But there is a consolation: for the first time, it is interesting to be a man (to men, at any rate). Being a man is now a profitable

literary theme. Just ask Nick Hornby. Anthony Giardina's The Country of Marriage is a collection of stories offering the American take on this theme. The cover bears the shoutline (or mumbleline, perhaps) "the emotional silences of the married man". My reaction was to groan inwardly, and I imagine the reaction of most British readers would be the same. But we



TUESDAY BOOK

THE COUNTRY OF MARRIAGE BY ANTHONY GIARDINA, FLAMINGO, £11.99

would be wrong. This is not some ed by a woman. "The Second Act" fictional equivalent of Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus. These stories offer no lists of things to do to improve your marriage overnight. They simply describe what being inside a marriage is like, with elegant

There is considerable variation. Some stories are told in the first per-

symbol of lost dreams - the inevitable and often painful accuracy. fading of that sense of "specialness" we have as children. Despite the variations, the nine stories share a strong family resemson, some in the third. One is narratblance. All are written in the same icy. skilful prose. The same themes emerge: the secrets that even (especially) the most intimate marriages are full of the acute (but futile) understanding of misunderstanding. Giardina's men are self-aware hut paralysed. They smoke cigarettes and

> finger to change it. His prose is full of insights that will make men nod in rueful recognition. In place of the usual "My wife doesn't understand me", he has "She was reflect, or affect what's underneath? quite certain she could see right through me... [but] what she was seeing was only the mirror of herself what such behaviour, if she were doing it, would certainly mean."

look at the stars after their wives have

gone to bed. They know precisely

what's going wrong but can't lift a

but it leads only to the tiniest change. The longest and most representative story is "The Secret Life". A man goes on an unsatisfactory camping weekend with his wife and daughter. His secret is that he is having an affair; but this is not the real secret. The real

large and fulsome emotional life she Liewellyn does not go as deep as Giarlived had not been his" - and it is this dina, and doesn't really try to. There secret that she penetrates during the

She understands at last that she is alone; she resolves that she will stop is this "awful adjustment" that, paradoxically, will allow them to stay together. Both understand this without imagines how Scott and Zelda's

word being spoken. In the end, these stories offer a small, cold hope. Marriage is a perilous place but its perils can be known and accepted, unlike those of the world outside it. Marriage is a refuge, a "bubble". To stay in it, scrupulous understanding and a continuing

stoicism are needed. Compare this with recent British fiction on the subject of masculinity. We are not comfortable with such heroic seriousness. We prefer a more jokey, blokey, okey-dokey approach. Take Robert Lleweilyn's The Man on Platform 5 (Hodder, £14.99): a rolereversed version of Puamalion in which two half-sisters, Gresham and Eupheme, make a wager when they spot a trainspotter at Milton Keynes station. Eupheme has seven weeks to transform this car-coated, videorecorder-carrying nerd into an attractive man that Gresham will fancy. It's a novel about surfaces - do they

I'm normally suspicious of novels by celebrity comedians (Llewellyn was Kryten in Red Dwarf) but this one has plenty of good points. The dialogue is first-rate - particularly that of Ian Sometimes, there is understanding. Ringfold, the trainspotter. Yes, indeedly-doodly. Blimey O'Reilly. Ringfold comes to life so sympathetically that I not only believe in his existence, I'd like to meet him. And the plot, after taking us on a breathless ride, gives us a nice soft landing.

This is an optimistic novel that prosecret is that he has never really met daims there's hope for men yet. It's his wife at the deepest level - "The an enjoyable entertainment, but

is some seriousness here, but it has to be heavily sweetened with comedy to be acceptable to the British palate. Giardina's uncomfortable truths don't asking for what she will never get. It slip down quite so easily, but they offer more food for thought, especially if you're a man - or a woman.

BRANDON ROBSHAW

TUESDAY POEM

HEDGEHOG BY JO SHAPCOTT

The road is slick in the rain and good slugs can be nuzzled out of shadows under hedgerows.

I understand.

It's plain you can't burry across even when those other lights come at you, preceding the hurtling mountain.

from volumes shortlisted for this year's TS Eliot Prize, to be onnounced on 11 Jonuory. Shortlisted outhors will read at the Almeida Theatre, London N.1 on Sunday 10 January (box office: 0171-359 4404). Jo Shopcott's 'My Life Asleep' is

published by OUP (£6.99).

Our poems this week come





The long haul: Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald

Jerry Quarry

JERRY QUARRY lived for the moment, in the boxing ring and out. Sadly, his life style aged him before his time, and his demise was drawn out. Before his decline set in with horrible finality in the 1990s, he wrote what should be his epitaph: "I've been in the ring with the best of all men / Some say the hest of all time / I gave my all, round after round / And the world knows I tried / I fought with heart / But needed much more / A bridesmaid but never a bride . . ."

At his peak, as a top-class heavyweight in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Quarry fought Muhammad Ali twice and fought for two versions of the world championship against Jimmy Ellis and Joe Frazier.

He boxed in Britain twice, knocking out the British heavyweight champion Jack Bodell in 64 seconds at Wembley in November 1971, and the following year outpointing his fellow American Larry Middleton.

When he fought Bodell, the notoriously unorthodox Derbyshire southpaw, pre-fight speculation hinged on how long it would take Quarry to solve the style of a man who had just trounced Joe Bugner over 15 rounds. "Did you find him awkward?" said an eager journalist in the dressing room inquest. "Well," said Quarry. "He sure fell awkward . . . " He also twice defeated the British heavyweight Brian London in California, in 1967 and 1969.

After a 200-fight amateur career in California, Quarry turned professional just before his 20th hirthday, in 1965. He was unbeaten in his opening 21 contests, and the former heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano went to see his 22nd, at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, with a view to taking over as his manager. Marciano was disappointed, however, and left hefore the end as Quarry was outbeaten by Eddie Machen, a veteran contender known as "The Old Professor".

boxing licence withdrawn in 1967 for younger brother Mike in the previrefusing to be drafted into the Vietnam War, the World Boxing Association organised an elimination tournament to decide a new champion, Quarry reached the final, by outpointing Floyd Patterson and then stopping the respected and hard-hitting Thad Spencer in the 12th round. However, he reserved one of his worst performances for the final, a dreary 15-rounder won on points by the negative, counterpunching Jimmy Ellis from Ali's home city of Louisville, Kentucky.

By 1969, Quarry's hard left hooking had brought him back into contention and he was matched with Joe

When Muhammad Ali had his chilling knockout suffered by his ous bout. Mike was knocked unconscious for 10 minutes by the world light-heavyweight champion Bob Foster, and there were, initially at least, serious fears for his health. "I watched it on the monitor in the dressing room and it totally destroyed everything I wanted to do. I thought he had killed my brother."

> Quarry enjoyed a revival in 1973 when he outpointed Ron Lyle, a former long-term convict from Denver, and knocked out the thunderous punching Earnie Shavers in one round. He was close to a shot at the winner of the Ali-George Foreman fight in Zaire, but instead fought Fra-

'Would I do it all over again?' he said in 1990. 'When I started in 1965, I was changing Greyhound Bus tyres for a living. You damned well know I'd go back into boxing. Yes, sir!'

Frazier, who was recognised as champion in New York and several other American states. Quarry was pulled out on the advice of the doctor at the end of round seven. "They never thought I had a heart till that fight," he remembered. "Damned shame I had to show 'em that way."

His most famous night was in Atlanta, Georgia, in October 1970, when he was the "fall-guy" for Ali's comeback from his threeyear exile. Quarry was stopped because of a badly cut eye in the third round. It hrought him his higgest payday, \$338,000.

A rematch with Ali two years later ended in seven rounds, with Quarry admitting afterwards his concentration was deeply affected by a

zier again in Madison Square Garden in New York, and was beaten in five rounds. The old champ Jne Louis refereed - and many felt he let

it go on too long.

Quarry retired in 1975, following a defeat by Ken Norton, and worked as a bodyguard for the pop group Three Dog Night, returned with a win in 1977 and retired again for six years. The first fears for his health were voiced at this time by Californian doctors, who felt he showed the initial signs of hrain damage. After his second fight of 1983, he needed 62 stitches in a gruesome network of cuts, yet he won. "It was fun, but that's enough," he said. The

Californian Commission agreed. He took to selling mobile homes and beer. He once looked back at his tough upbringing and said: "I've led a Grapes of Wrath life ... " He had been articulate and fresh-faced in his youth, with a passion for poetry, and had said he wanted to move into boxing commentating when he retired from the ring. Instead, he lost the estimated \$2.1m he had earned from boxing as his life hit a downward spiral of divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, and a sad refusal to accept that his youth had gone.

"Would I do it all over again?" he said in 1990. "When I started in 1965, I was changing Greyhound Bus tyres for a living, hringing home \$99.50 a week. You damned well know I'd go back into boxing. Yes, sir!" He was surely declining mental-

ly when he fought for the last time, in a six-round club fight in Colorado in 1992, when he could no longer get a licence in California. He absorbed a pounding from a novice named Ron Cranmer. His purse was a fraction above \$1,000, but the legacy was terrible.

By 1995 he was in the care of his elder brother James and was officially suffering from severe pugilistic dementia. James set up the Jerry Quarry Foundation, a nonprofit charity to assist disabled former boxers who need more help than is provided by the social services. Quarry was frequently confused and had difficulties carrying out simple tasks like shaving or tying shoe laces, "Jerry has 60 per cent short-term memory loss and the temperament of a 12-year-old," said his hrother.

Quarry was taken into hospital with pneumonia last week in Temnleton, California, and died following a heart attack.

BOB MEE

Jerry Quarry, boxer, born 15 May 1945; three times married (three children); died Templeton, California 3 January 1999.



Quarry's 1972 rematch against Muhammad Ali (left) ended in seven rounds

"Then it was my turn to cry!"

THE SAD thing about a career like Ruth Clifford's, which began at the dawn of the feature film, is that most of the films that made her reputation have been lost.

She was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in 1900. As a child, she her brother - allowed to go on Saturdays - would sit through the programmes twice. She was particularly impressed by the Biograph films, directed by D.W. Griffith. "In those days," she told a researcher, Susan McConachy, "they didn't have names for the people - Mae Marsh, Lillian Gish - hut we made up names for them. Later on, I had the privilege of working with Mae Marsh and we became very close friends."

Her mother died when Ruth was 11, and she and her sister were placed in St Mary's Seminary on Narragansett Bay, At 15, Ruth and her sister moved to California to live with an aunt who had heen a stage actress. She made her debut at the old Edison company, as an extra. She visited the Universal company, was quickly hired by Henry MacRae and by 1917 had risen to become one of their most valuable leading ladies, playing opposite some of the most popular leading men of the time.

The studio survived on its westerns; it employed authentic cowboys who found pictures paid better than ranching. Clifford was taught riding and shooting by these men - experiences which came in useful years Hulton Getty later when she worked with John

Ford on films like She Wore a Yellow Ribbon, Wagonmaster and The Searchers. (Ford liked her because she played hridge.)

At Universal, she became the favourite actress of the director Rupert Julian - who later directed the on Charley version of The Phontom of the Opera (1925). "I worked with strange kid . . ." him for two years. He wouldn't let me work with any other director, which was considered a privilege." Julian - real name Percival Hayes - came from New Zealand. "He was very dignified and looked extremely severe. He wore a stunning little moustache, and was always beautifully groomed."

Oddly enough, he prided himself on his resemblance to the Kaiser. Julian directed Clifford in her most notorious film, The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin (1918), with himself in the lead. Audiences became so worked up they threw things at the screen and when a German soldier - about to rape Clifford - is strangled, huge cheers went up. The picture's success brought Universal back from the hrink of bankruptcy.

In 1919, while most of the East Coast studios were packing up and moving west, Clifford went in the opposite direction, and made pictures in New York for Charles Frohman and for David O. Selznick's father Lewis. Locations for The Peak of Gold were shot in Puerto Rico.

opposite John Gilbert, soon to be the depend on a good director - and an Abbey Players tour reached Los most romantic star of his generation. "My favourite leading man," she

Ruth Clifford

said. "We were working together and playing love scenes. I enjoyed kiss-ing him but when he took me out I wouldn't let him kiss me goodnight! Isn't that silly? I guess I was a One of her finest roles fortunately still survives - albeit in only one American archive. Clarence Brown, later responsible for some of

Garbo's best pictures like Flesh and the Devil (1926) and Anna Karenina (1935), directed Butterfly in 1924. Clifford played Hilary Collier, who sacrifices her own career for the musical education of her talented young sister (Laura la Plante). Silent film actresses have an unfair reputation for overacting in emotional scenes; Brown taught her never to go too far. "Do not cry," he advised her. "The audience

will think it's self-pity. Keep a stone in your throat - swallow hard - hut don't shed a tear." Hilary is deeply in love with an older man. When her sister hursts into the kitchen to tell her that he has proposed to her, Ruth Clifford responds with great stillness - and the scene is profoundly moving.

At the opening-night party, Brown confessed to her that he had tried hard to cast the role with a more famous star, hut was glad he hadn't. Then it was my turn to cry!" she

inspiration like that."

A more celebrated production came out the same year - Abroham Lincoln, Clifford's favourite of all her films. It was the pipe-dream of two youngsters who wanted to break into pictures with a bang. Al and Ray Rockett hired the great Frances Marion to write the script and Phil Rosen to direct. Alas, only two reels survive, and while the picture looks impressive, Clifford's role of Ann Rutledge is cut to the bone. The film won critical plaudits, but like so many high-minded Hollywood pro-

ductions it was a financial flop. In 1924, Clifford married James Cornelius, a real-estate agent who would develop much of Beverly Hills. They took a cruise to Hawaii for their honeymoon.

"Fortunately, marriage has proved beneficial to my career," Ruth told a journalist in 1925, "though, if it hadn't, the career could go hang itself." She turned down an offer to do a picture with Valentino because she and her husband had planned a fishing trip to their second home at June Lake. "I took my work too seriously, because 1 had so little else. I never had any fun. I didn't know how." Her marriage, she said, changed all that. And to her surprise, her fan mail increased. She and Cornelius had one

son, James Cornelius Jnr. Although her mother came from In 1923, she played in a Graustark said. "When you're young and Manchester, Ruth Clifford was proud story, Jerome Storm's Tructon King. haven't had experience in life, you of her Irish background and, when

Angeles, she became a member of the company. Her career continued into televisioo - she played in many episodes of Highway Patrol in the 1950s. On the screen, she worked with Spencer Tracy in Ford's The Last The Keys of the Kingdom (1944) and The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit (1956).

In the Seventies she was appearing in commercials - some for British television. In the late 1980s, she appeared in a documentary on Irish cinema and Irish stars for Ulster TV, A Seat among the Stars. She lived in Sherman Oaks outside Los Angeles until 1987, when she moved to the Motion Picture Home in Woodland Hills where she died.

"She was a remarkable person." said her friend the film historian Anthony Slide. "She disliked heing interviewed. Sit her at dinner and she would regale you with stories, but put a tape recorder in front of her and she would clam up. Yet she enjoyed life so much - and was never stuck in the past. She was very well off and even in her nineties she loved to go on cruises to places like Hawaii, dancing into the small hours."

KEVIN BROWNLOW

Ruth Clifford, actress: born Pawtucket, Rhode Island 17 February 1900; married 1924 James Cornelius (one son deceased); died Woodland Hills, California 30 November 1998

Diana Mulgan

FOR MORE than quarter of a century Diana Mulgan sought, nurtured and developed talented singers, presenting them to increasingly eager audiences both in Britain and abroad. Among her charges were such household names as the soprano Karita Mattila, the mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter and the baritone Olaf Bar

But it was also in the politics of the classical music world that Diana Mulgan became a force to be reckoned with. In 1980, at the age of 32 she, along with her colleague Robert Rattray, bought the classical musicians' agency they were working for,

Twelve years later she stunned both Rattray and the entire musical profession by jumping ship - together with her partner Tom Graham, who was then a singers' manager at the Harrison Parrott agency - to join the big multinational entertainers' management company, International Management Group (IMG). The couple took with them more than 100 singers. leaving their respective former again. As the journalist Norman Le-

brecht noted in his 1996 book on the destiny of the classical music profession, When the Music Stops, "between them, the pair managed some of the sweetest voices in Europe".

But that one extraordinary professional move aside - which six years later remains a highly sensitive subject in the industry - Diana Mulgan is remembered for her enormous energy, her ability to sniff out talent and her great attention to artists' needs.

Born in 1948, to a father who was a professional oboist and conductor. Mulgan played the violin with the highly regarded Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra and was an accomplished planist. She studied German at Nottingham University, although to hear her speak the language in the office was hilarious as, while nevertheless getting her point across, she destroyed just about every rule of grammar that the Teutonic race had ever devised.

Mulgan began her career in 1972 as a general dogsbody and factorim for a matriarchal musicians' manager called Lies Askonas. A Viennaagencies to almost start all over born fencing mistress who had served on General Eisenhower's

staff during the Normandy landings, Askonas had since 1953 built up a high-profile roster of singers and conductors including Birgit Nilsson, Hans Hotter, Zubin Mehta and Claudio Abbado from little more than a broom cupboard, opposite a Soho brothel, But within a matter of months Mulgan was unceremoniously fired from her administration duties due to the frequency with which correspondence turned up in the wrong files.

This oft-related demotion gave Mulgan the opportunity to develop relationships with the firm'a artists. While the agency's representation of such great names might sometimes have only been for the maestro's annual token appearance in Britain, the doors such friendships opened were very important, Throughout her career Mulgan was never slow to capitalise on her musical contacts across the world.

Askonas took the pretty, vivacious and ambitious Diana Mulean under her wing, ensuring the young protegee witnessed at first hand conductors such as Istvan Kertesz or Carlo Maria Giulini with the Philharmonia and legendary singers

such as Teresa Berganza and Nico-lai Cyedda. The older woman also took an interest in Mulgan's personal welfare, lending Diana her home in Minorca from time to time. Askonas, who died in 1996, sold

the company to Mulgan and Robert Rattray in 1980. In that pre-fax, predesktop-computer age the pair of them devoted huge amounts of energy to making it a highly respected international force in an industry which then at least was as much paternal as managerial. Her devotion to duty saw Mulgan spend many Saturdays catching up on the bookkeeping and on more than one occasion she prepared a lavish feast for singers and conductors from a poky little cloakroom at the back of

Although Mulgan could lay her hands on any piece of paper that was needed, her desk remained a complete mystery to those who worked with her, but for her the real work was out on the road spotting talent. encouraging performers and wit-

nessing live concerts. To the dismay of her colleagues Mulgan returned from the first Walther Gruner Lieder Competition backing of the hall's director William

in London salivating over the vocal talents of the winner, a 23-year-old baritone from Dresden - then a city behind the Iron Curtain - who would require much looking after and for whom visas and travel documents would be a constant and expensive nightmare. But that singer, Olaf Bar. is today one of the most sought-after vocalists of his generation and within two years of his competition success had contracts with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, La Scala in

Milan, and EMI records. Mulgan wouldn't just spend time with the big names. No matter how much or how little income an artist produced for the agency, if Mulgan believed in a performer she would welcome the musician at the airport. proffer some ego-massaging before hard-won ovalion with her clients

late into the night. She also had a respected intellectual capacity and came to realise that audiences, particularly on such hallowed turf as the Wigmore Hall in London, demanded more than merely to hear and see a traditional recital. And so, with the help and Lyne, Mulgan developed the Insight Series, a string of concerts where audiences were first taught about the poetry within Lieder before hearing the Lieder itself. The early 1990s saw enormous

changes in the way classical musicians were managed in the United Kingdom. While one high-profile company went into liquidation, others amalgamated or altered the way they operated. IMG, famous for the high fees and total management packages it commanded for its clients, and already prominent in New York, took the opportunity to launch into the European classical music market from its established sports offices in London. Big-name artists and bigger name managers defected - with Mulgan and Torn the performance, and celebrate a Graham being among the most prominent of the latter.

As the dust settled on the ensuing uproar, Mulgan continued to put enormous energy into the business, rounding off a full day at the office with a concert or opera performance followed by a reception or party before the whole cycle began again just a few hours later.



Sensationally jumped ship

joyed, Diana Mulgan loved the great outdoors and in 1980 completed the coast-to-coast footpath from Bees Head in Cumbria to Ravenscar in North Yorkshire.

She was diagnosed with cancer in 1995 and almost immediately after that devastating news she and her long-term partner Tom Graham were married.

TIM BULLAMORE

Diana Marion Mulgan, classical musicians' manager; born 6 April 1948; married 1995 Tom Graham; In what little free time she endied London 18 December 1998.

Rolf Liebermann

was one of the most influential figures of the post-war musical scene. especially of opera, along with such luminaries as Walter Legge, Herbert von Karajan and Sir Rudolf Bing, all of whom he outlived. It was as an opera administrator that he was best known, at the Hamburg Opera 1959-72, and as director of the Paris Opéra from 1973 to 1980.

Born in Zürich in 1910, Liebermann studied law at that university and music at the José Berr Conservatory, and went on to study composition in Budapest and Vienna under Hermann Scherchen, to whom he became secretary and assistant in 1937-38. Scherchen was one of the foremost advocates of contemporary music and had conducted the premieres of many 20th-century terpieces from Schönberg's Pierrot Lunaire to works of Berg. Webern, Dallapiccola and Henze, and he remained a major influence and friend

of Liebermann until his death in 1966. In 1938 Liebermann returned to Switzerland to become a music critic and at the same time studied serial 12-tone technique with Wladmir Vogel. Being Jewish he kept out of Nazi-dominated countries until after the Second World War, but a strong anti-Nazi message runs through the stage works he wrote then and later.

He became a producer for Swiss radio in 1945 (until 1950) and for the Berommster Radio Orchestra (until 1957), often working with other German radio stations while composing for the stage and concert hall. An electic with a daring technique that incorporated jazz and popular musical elements with erudite new musical techniques, Liebermann was considered a leader among post-war composers, but had already proved himself to be an administrator of great competence and imagination.

When the Hamhurg Opera which, like other German musical institutions, had been allowed to start again under the strict control of the occupying powers - was looking for a general manager, he was the ideal candidate. As be pointed out in his autohiography Opernjohre (1977), one thing the candidate had to be

Liebermann took on Hamburg in 1957 and made it not only the European centre of excellence in musical sioned years earlier, and engaging

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THE COMPOSER Rolf Liebermann standards, but the main venue for new operatic works. He promoted the early careers of Placido Domingo and Mirella Freni among many others. His repertory balanced modern and traditional works, reviving forgotten composers and giving specialist conductors a chance to perform their individual enthusiasms. During this time he virtually stopped composing.

His most successful work was the 1954 Concerto for Jazz Band and Orchestra, which quickly acquired international notoriety and helped to create his reputation as an enfant terrible whose dignified and authoritative presence covered a deep vein of playful naughtiness. No modern administrator has been able as easily as Liebermann to do exactly what he wanted, however controversial, with so little opposition.

His principal operas, Lenore 40/45 thirst performed in Basel in 19521, Penelope (Salzburg 1954) and The School for Wives (Louisville, Kentucky 1955), were well received, but after doing the round of German onera houses had few revivals. The reason was that Liebermann never diluted the energy he put into his current occupation, and without new output a career languishes. He knew he could return to composition whenever he wanted, hut the attractions of being at the centre of the musical world were too seductive to he laid aside, even temporarily.

In 1973 he was invited by President Pompidou to take over and reform the Paris Opéra which had fallen on bad



A dignified and authoritative presence hiding a deep vein of playful naughtiness

the best artists, whatever their background or nationality.

He employed new producers, some like Joseph Losey from the cinema, others from theatres and opera houses in Germany, Britain, Italy and elsewbere. He widened the repertoire as he had done in Hamburg, where he had introduced Penderecki, Krenek, Britten, Berg and Janacek, but now with more traditional works, superbly well done.

His most successful work, the 1954 Concerto for Jazz Band and Orchestra. established him as an enfant terrible

times with a poor administration, low musical standards and a culture of constant strikes. At that time Covent Garden and the ENO between them offered a wide and adventurous repertoire at affordable prices. Liebermann took London as his model and imposed a benevolent hut firm hand on the Parisian anarchy, retiring musicians and chorus members who should have been pen-

When attacked by Pierre Boulez for his new-found conservatism, he recruited him to conduct the world premiere of the complete three-act Lulu, which had just been made possible by the death of Alban Berg's widow, who had blocked it all ber life.

He persuaded Olivier Messiaen, the renowned religious composer and teacher of the French avant-garde, including Boulez, to write an opera in his final years. St François d'Assise, a long, daringly conceived por- less prominently than in Hamburg. trait, had little dramatic action hut much musical originality; at one him: Hugues Gall, in charge of the two point the angel of music descends from heaven to demonstrate what the music of heaven sounds like.

Under Liebermann unequalled performances of Otello, Parsifal, Don Giovanni and Boris Godunov were given, hut at great expense to the state. Some were filmed and be contended that the future of opera depended partly on finance from film versions; in this be was prophetic.

He retired in 1980, at the age of 70, intending to return to composition. His first project was an operatic adaptation of Waiting for Godot hy Samuel Beckett, much of which had been completed before permissioo was asked from the author, who politely declined. Stoically Liebermann went on with other composition. He was, bowever, unable to resist involvement in live performance and accepted the presidency of the Salzhurg Festival, while continuing to act as adviser elsewhere.

In his Paris years, he made the opera more international, hringing in leading figures from all over the world. The avant-garde had its place in performance of work by Stockhausen and Kagel for instance, but died Paris 2 January 1999.

leading state opera houses in Paris, was previously part of his team.

As a composer Liebermann well merits a revival. His varied style would he enjoyed by both traditionally minded and progressive audiences. He wrote superbly for the voice, and in his few late works the music is closer to tonal models and bel canto than earlier. One of his last major compositions, La Foret (1987), has a libretto by his wife, Helene Vidal; another, Cosmopolitan Greetings (1988), is scored for jazz singers and symphony orchestra.

Rolf Liebermann was a Berliozian character, daring and with a giant vision. Aside from his music, his historical reputation may he similar to Diaghilev's, who was an inspirer of others. In addition to Opernjahre and its French version, Actes et Enteractes (1976), still unpublished in Britain, he made a sumptuous album of the productions of his Paris years.

JOHN CALDER Rolf Liebermann, composer and administrator: born Zurich 14 Sep-

tember 1910; married Hélène Vidal;

Theodore Newhouse

conglomerates, began a lifelong career in publishing as a manager of a family-owned newspaper, The Long Island Press. By the time he retired some seven decades later, the family holdings included 26 newspapers; Conde Nast Publications, which publishes The New Yorker, Vogue and Vanity Fair, substantial interests in cable television;

and Random House publishers. Newhouse was one of eight children from a family of poor Jewish immigrants who came to the United States at the turn of the century: his father was Russian; his mother Austrian. As a child in Bayonne, New Jersey, he belped the family by selling newspapers and scrounging for firewood. His eldest trother, Samuel 1.

Newhouse, got the family into the publishing business when a local lawyer-businessman gave him a try-out at no wages. In 1911, at the age of 16, Sam was put in charge of The Staten Island Advance, a newspaper that the lawyer had taken over in satisfaction of a bad debt. Sam made the paper a success and acquired it himself in 1922.

Theodore Newbouse, then 19, was brought in to help out and get what he would later call "on-the-job training", which included duties as the paper's music critic and overseeing the publication's classified advertisements. A third brother, Norman, was also recruited, and moonlighted as a reporter. Together, the brothers established a management style that came to characterise the Newhouse empire frugal, secretive, and controlled only by members of the family. Nor were they sentimental - when The Staten Island Advance became unprofitable a few years ago, it was quickly shut down.

The hrothers embarked on a policy of newspaper acquisitions, amassing the fourth largest newspaper empire in the United States. that includes the Nework Star-Ledger, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Portland Oregonian and the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

In 1932, Newhouse became general manager of a new acquisition. The Long Island Press, and soon

THEODORE NEWHOUSE, who with after became the associate pubhis two brothers assembled one of lisher of all the Newbouse newspa-America's higgest communications per holdings, an involvement he sustained until 12 years ago when his health began to fail.

Newhouse moved into a nursing home and the company is now divided into two parts, the glossy magazine holdings run by Sam Newhouse's son S.L "Si" Newhouse and the more profitable newspaper and television holdings by Si's brother, Donald.

The founding Newhouse brothers established both a punishing work ethic (at work before dawn) and an abstemious life style (they used public transport); however, they also devised a series of tax feints and dodges to keep the revenue services perplexed. After Sam Newhouse's death in 1979, his heirs, Si and Don, filed a return the following year declaring the taxable estate to be \$91m, on which \$49m tax was owed. The IRS determined it worth \$962m and the tax \$658m, the higgest tax bill in history. Moreover, the IRS charged that the original return was so far off base as to constitute fraud and imposed a 50 per cent penalty of \$305m on top. A jury found in favour of the family.

Throughout his life, Theodore Newhouse maintained a strong interest in the arts. While be was working at the family's first newspapers, be took night classes at several New York City universities in opera, music and art, and studied dance in the summers. In later life, he made donations to a wide variety of cultural groups, including the New York City Opera.

Theodore Newhouse never lost sight of the fact that it was his elder brother who got the empire started. In the mid-1970s, the family gathered at his summer home in Connecticut to celebrate his 20th wedding anniversary. As the lunch progressed, Theodore rose to give the first toast and beads turned expectantly towards his wife, Caroline. But Theodore raised his glass and said simply, "To Sam".

EDWARD HELMORE

Theodore Newhouse, publisher: born Bayonne, New Jersey 19 July 1903; twice married (one daughter deceased); died New York 28 November 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

ATHERTON: Vicky, formerly Church, died peacefully on 2 January at Ripon Community Hospital. Dearly beloved wife of David, and much-loved mother of Nicholas, Katherine and Peter. Funeral at St Andrew's Parish Church, Keighley, at 1.30pm on Thursday 7 January and afterwards at Newsholme Manor, Oakworth. Family request donations instead of flowers to Dr T. Perrin, Breast Cancer Research, with cheques payable to St James's Hospital, Leeds.

BRADEY: Bertha Woodall, died on 2 January 1999, aged 84 years. Her funeral service will be held on 14 January at Monkton Combe Church at 2pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Unifem UK or UNA UK may be sent c/o Co-op Funeral Service, Pulteney Road, Bath, telephone 01225 314304.

DEACON: Karen Olga Marie, much-loved wife of John and mother of Timothy, Paul, Christopher and Louise, peace-fully on 31 December at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Funeral 4.30pm, Wednesday S January, at St Mary's Oatlands. Family flowers only please.

LEVI: On 4 January 1999, Alfred Jonathan (Jon), MD FRCP, peacefully at home, after a long light against pancreatic cancer; borne with exceptional courage and dignity, and surrounded by his beloved and loving wife Mary and children David, Sophie, Carla and Rachel. Funeral service at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London W1, at 130pm on Wednesday 6 January, followed by interment at approximately 3pm at Hoop Lane Jewish Cemetery, Golders Green, London NW11. Prayers at home at Cemetery, Golders Green, Lon-don NW11. Prayers at home at 8µm that evening. At Jon's request there will be on memori-al service. No flowers please, but donations may be sent to Dr David Cumingham's Research Rmd, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey Care EUT.

Announcements for Gazette Announcements in Valence
Births, Marriages, Adoptions,
Marriages, Deaths, Memorial
services, Wedding anniversarie
In memoriam) are charged at

BIRTHDAYS

King Juan Carlos of Spain, 61; Jean, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, 78; Mr Mansur Ali Khan, Nawab of Pataudi, former Indian cricketer, 58; M Jean-Pierre Aumont, actor, 88; Mr Alfred Brendel, concert pianist, 68; Mrs Jean Clark, former President, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 64; Mr John Darby, former chairman, Ultramar, 69; Mr Terry Davis MP, 61; Mr Robert Duvall, actor, 68; Sir Alan Hume, former Chairman, Ancient Monuments Board, Scotland, 86; Miss Diane Keaton, actress, 53; Lord Kingsdown, former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, 72; Miss Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 57: Miss Sarah Lucas, radio presenter, 48; Mr Maurizio Pollini, pianist. 57; Maj-Gen Henry Quinlan. former Director of the Army Dental Service, 93; General Sir Michael Rose, Adjutant General, 59; General Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, 64.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Dr Benjamin Rush, politician, 1745; Jean-Baptiste Say, political economist, 1767; Stephen Decatur, naval commander, 1779; John Burke, genealogist, founder of Burke's Peerage, 1787; Kaspar Ett, organist and composer, 1788; Thomas Pringle, poet, 1789; Thomas Creswick, painter, 1811: William Smith Rockstro (Rackstraw), organist and composer, 1823; Khristo Botev, poet and revolutionary, 1848; King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety-razor, 1855; Sir William Newzam Prior Nicholson, painter and engraver, 1872; Joseph Erlanger, neurophysiologist, 1874; Konrad Adenauer, statesman, 1876; Nikolai Karlovich Medtner. composer, 1880; Humbert Wolfe, poet, 1885; Clifford Grey, actor, writer and lyri-

cist, 1887; Stella Dorothea Gibbons (Mrs Allan Bourne Webh), poet and novelist, 1902; Kathleen Mary Kenyon, archaeologist, 1906;

Jack Lovelock, athlete and surgeon, 1910. Deaths: St Edward the Confessor, 1066; Giambattista Moroni, portrait painter. 1578; Catherine de Medici, Queen of France, 1589; Isaac Reed, Shakespearian scholar and editor, 1807; Sir George Prevost, soldier and statesman, 1816; Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 1847; Joseph Gillott, steel pen manufacturer, 1873; Anton Mauve, landscape painter, 1888; John Westland Marston, dramatic poet, 1890; Sir Ernest Henry. Shackleton, explorer, 1922; John Calvin Coolidge. 30th US President, 1933: Humbert Wolfe, poet, 1940; Amy Johnson (Mollison), aviator. 1941; George Washington Carver, scientist, 1943; Roberto Gerhard, composer, 1970; Brian Alexander

> On this day: Charles the Bold of France was killed by the Swiss at the Battle of Nancy, 1477; an attempt was made on the life of Louis XV of France by Robert-François Damiens, 1757; Britain and Turkey concluded the Treaty of the Dardanelles, 1809; John Thurtell and Joseph Hunt were tried for the murder of fellowswindler William Weare, Hunt turning King's evidence, 1824; Gilbert and Sullivan's opera Princess Ida was first performed, London, 1884; the first demonstration of X-rays was given by Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, 1896; the National Socialist Party was formed in Munich hy Anton Drexler, 1919; the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) was established, 1919; in the US, the first woman governor, Mrs Nellie Tayloe Ross. was elected, 1925; King

Johnston, hroadcaster and

cricket commentator, 1994.

Alexander of Yugoslavia established himself as a dictator, 1929; FM radio was first demonstrated in the US by Major Edwin H. Armstrong, 1940; Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I met in Jerusalem, the first meeting between leaders of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches for over

500 years, 1964: President

Valery Giscard d'Estaing

promulgated a law making

the use of French compulso ry in advertising, instructions on consumer goods, etc, in France, 1976. Today is Wassail Eve (tonight is Twelfth Night) and the Feast Day of St Apollinaris, St Convoyon, St Dorotheus the Younger, St Gerlac, St John Nepomucene

LECTURES

and St Syncletica.

Neumann, St Simeon Stylites

National Gallery: Norman Coady, "New Appearances (i): attributed to the Clarisse Master, The Virgin and Child", 1pm. British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Islamic Ceramics as Inspiration for the Arts and Crafts Movement", 11.30am. Victoria and Albert Museum: Diana Perry Aldrich, "Early Renaissance Sculpture", 2pm. **National Portrait Gallery:** Margaret Binnie, "Sir Robert Vyner and His Family",

APPOINTMENTS

Sir Ivan Callan, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman. Mr Michael John Christie, to he Regional Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for the North London and East Region. Ms Brigid Mary Kane, to be Regional Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunals for the South London and South and West Region.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

Archdeacon of Lynn (Norwich): to be Suffragan Bisbop of Lynn. Canon Peter Hullah, Headmaster, Chetham's School of Music, and Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Collegiate Cburch of St Mary, St Denys and St George (Manchester): to be Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury (Salisbury).

bury (Salisbury).

The Rev Kathleen Batte, NSM, Wilford Hill (Southwell), to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Cinderbill Christ Church usame dioceset, Canon John Bearpark, Vicar, Bentham St Margaret and Rural Dean of Ewecross (Bradford): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Bentham St John the Baptist Isame dioceset.

The Rev Richard Bending, Vicar, Buchden, and Priest-in-Charge, Hail Weston (Ely): to be Priest-in-Charge, Terrington St John, Tilney All Saints, Tilney St Lawrence, Wiggenhall St Germans and Islington, and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene (same diocese). Canon Carl Gorner, Olocesan Missioner (St Albans): to be Priest-in-Charge, Digswell Team Ministry, and Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral Isame diocese). The Bet Doris Goddard, NSM, Addle-

Honorary Canon of St Alburs Cathedral isame diocese). The Rev Doris Goddard, NSM, Addlentone (Gulldford): to be Assistant Curate, Botleys and Lyne and Long Cross tsame diocese). The Rev Brian Hall, Vicar, Elandsworth St Mary (Birmingham): to be also Area Dean of Handsworth Isame diocese). The Rev Christopher Hayes, Assistant Curate, Burton Fleming with Fordon, Grindale and Wold Newton (York): to be Priest in-Charge, Rillington with Scampston, Wintringham and Thorpe Bassett (same diocese). The Rev John Holford, Team Vicar. Shelf St Michael and Buttershaw St Aldam (Bradford): to be half-time

Aidan (Bradford): to be half-tim Arisan (Stradord): to be han-time Priest-in-Charge, Embsoy with Eastby (same diocese). The Rev Nigel Johnson, Rector, Calow and Sutton-cum-Duckmanton (Derby): to be also Rural Dean of Bolsover and Staveley (same diocese). The Rev Arian Leathers, Vican, Heachan (Morasich) to be Priest-in-The Rev Arian (Norwich): to be Priest-in-Charge, Stopenhill Immanuel (Derby The Rev Robin Martin, with per-mission to officiate (Lichfield): to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Maenbury tame dioresel

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsb Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

The state of

HISTORICAL NOTES The Ven Anthony Foottit, Did the ancient

Celts really exist? Starting in the 1970s there Celts were the "first great na-NEWSPAPERS LOVE "shockhas been a second "Celtic Re-

borror!" headlines. But when the Financial Times Weekend section came out with a frontpage banner "The Celts - it was all just a myth", quoting the opinions of a learned archaeologist in the field, the dismay and bewilderment reverberated through academia and beyond.

Since "Celtic Studies" began at degree level in the 19th century, Celtic scholars have taught, as unquestionable facts, that the Celts emerged at the start of the first millennium BC around the headwaters of the Rhine, the Rhône and the Danube. At their greatest expansion, in the third century BC, they stretched from Ireland in the west to the central plain of what is now Turkey in the east, and as far south as southern Spain and northern Italy down to Ancona.

We know that Celtic armies captured the city of Rome in 390 BC and sacked Delphi in 279 BC. Although partially absorbed or constrained by the Roman Empire and then by the Germanic and Slavic expansions, descendants of the ancient Celts still survive today - the Irish, Manx and Scots, the Welsh, Cornisb and Bretons. But only 2.5 million speak a Celtic language.

AMERICAN CINEMAS are

so loudly amplified that

nobody except the stone-

deaf could possibly hope

for the "assistive bearing

device" whose availability

is announced - in writing -

been produced, not just in academic studies but with all manner of esoterica. Celtic music has even entered the "pop" charts. Born-again "Druids" come tumbling out of their oakgroves, and the surviving Celts themselves have demanded cultural and political autonomy and begun to achieve it. It suddenly became "cool" to he Celtic! Even the Galicians in north-west Spain, who had not spoken a Celtic language in a thousand years, pronounced that they, too, were Celtic. In 1997 Dr Simon James,

vival", the first being at the end

of the last century. A veritable industry of Celtomania has

writing in the British Museum's magazine, attacked the popular misconceptions growing round the subject. Unfortunately his article caused the media to swing the opposite way, causing even the FT to emerge with its "shock-borror!" revelation. There is now a new school of historical theorists arguing that the Celts never existed. What Dr James actually said

was: "The ancient Celts are often conceived as one uniform people ..." Having set up tion north of the Alps", Dr James was quite happy demolishing it. As no serious scholar argues such a concept, Dr James could not he censured for dismissing it. But the media, in misinterpreting,

created a new problem. From the commencement of Celtic Studies, the Celts have been identified purely as a linguistic group; a branch of the Indo-European family, like the Germanic Romance, Slavonic, Iranian and other linguistic groups. Celtic is a term used to identify peoples who spoke a particular language which had developed away from its Indo-European parent probably two millennia BC and which had already developed into several dialects by the time they emerged into recorded history.

There was certainly no single "Celtic nation" but several Celtic peoples, with a visually brilliant culture, a high-tech one from which the Romans borrowed much - albeit ungraciously. Had the ancient Celts not existed then European culture would have been drastically the poorer.

Peter Berresford Ellis is his own Aunt Sally, that some author of The Ancient World people thought the ancient of the Celts' (Constable, £25)

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

assistive, adj.

assistiva mulier, a kind of on the screen before every showing. Until now. the nun. One can only hope that this cumbersome word had been so rare that the OED can mention coining does not cross the only the medieval Latin Atlantic and oust the con-

cise, bonest issuing of a hearing-aid.

Such shirking of physical fact recalls the unfortunate incident when an Englishman was told by a client that she had an "exceptional" child, upon which he congratulated her. But she looked askance. She had meant that her offspring had a mental affliction

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number. They're rivals for parental attention, success and even each other's men. It's an impossible relationship. By Maureen Freely

It ain't envy. She's my sister

would have loved it." This is what an eavesdropper overheard Hilary du Pré saying at a prepremiere showing of Hilary and Jackie, the film version of her hook about her sister. But friends of the real Jacqueline say that's nonsense. She would have taken the film in the vicious spirit in which it was intended. There is little here of the joyous young virtuoso cellist who gave the world so much before being struck down by multiple sclerosis at the age of 28. Instead we see a manipulative sibling whose aim in life is to seduce her sister's husband. The portrait is so twisted, they say, that it should be renamed "Hilary's Revenge".

How could she commit such sacrilege and hope to get away with it? It's one thing to vent venom on your sister when you're still a girl, but a grown woman should at least keep her mouth shut. There's a formula for dealing with intrusive questions. It goes like this:

"Oh. Yes, Well. We used to hate each other when we were little. But now, thank God, we're the best of friends." Ask any woman over 21 how she gets on with her sisters, and nine times out of ten that's what she'll tell you. She'll be vague on the details, though. She'll claim not to remember how or why or even when things turned wonderful. She'll say, "It must have been that dreary summer in Galway, when there was no one else to talk to." Or, "I suppose things got easier after I married both sisters off to Spaniards."

Or she'll shrug her shoulders and say it just happened, and then express surprise at your surprise that an 18-year hate-fest could evolve into a mutual fan club without her even noticing. She'll go on to suggest that forgiving a sister for all the horrible things she did to you is a natural and inevitable part of growing up. But don't you believe it. To start liking a sister you once hated is the greatest feat known to womankind. It makes childbirth look easy, not to mention very short.

Even after you have your happy ending, even if your new relationship with your sister is so good that you start remembering the fun times you had together as children. and then conveniently forgot, it's still horrifying to count the ways in which the rivalry has crippled you. In my case this was literal. My sister, who is two years younger than me, also happens to be taller than me. And so my jealousy condemned me to decades of stiletto heeis and platform shoes. To complete the false impression I was in the habit of buying trousers longer than my legs. This meant that I couldn't just kick my shoes off when I happened to find myself on a shingle beach, or change into trainers to go bowling. So I was always tripping and twisting my ankle.

Even in my late thirties I was still having palpitations at the very suggestion that I consider wearing flat shoes. I was still allergic to tennis and volleyball because she was so good at them, and still suffering flashes of fury at the very mention of the word "Stradivarius", because my parents had given her one when she was 12. I was still getting migraines on the nights before she came to visit, and had not yet bought her a birthday present. My alibi was always the same: every time 2 March came around, I was in bed with a high fever.

I had two children of my own before I made a connection between these fevers and the fever I was running the day my parents brought my sister back from the hospital. My parents didn't want the baby to catch it so they kept me in isolation until I got better. But not before they had proudly displayed their dread bundle and said, "Look! We've bought you a present!" A tactless introduction. But they are not to be blamed for getting my sister and me off to a bad start. As the psychotherapist



JACKIE AND HILARY

As the classical cellist Jacqueline du Pré rose to international fame, her sister Hilary was somewhat eclipsed. Until now, that is. Her biography of Jackie, now a film starring Emily Watson, is causing something of a furore, intense sibling rivalry being the central theme. Jackie is portrayed as a manipulative, arrogant and emotionally dangerous younger sibling. No surprises that Hilary's portrayal of her younger sister may be slightly subjective. Considering that she was overshadowed sexually as well as musically, it seems, how could it be anything else? At one point in the film, Jackie declares that she wants to sleep with Hilary's husband, Kiffer Finzi. After she does just that she's heard saying. 'I feel a million dollars this morning - that was exactly what the doctor ordered'.

JACKIE AND JOAN COLLINS

Neither seems overjoyed by the other's success in film or books. When

Joan became a famous actress, younger sister Jackie decided to try her

luck at writing, and carved out a highly profitable career in raunchy blockbusters; 'The World is Full of Married Men', 'The Stud', and 'Holly-

wood Wives'. It's when one sibling steps into the other's territory that

the trouble seems to start - as when Joan decided to turn her hand to

'bodice-rippers'. Jackie is rumoured to be less than happy at this sibling

invasion. Still, there must have been a moment of furtive glee when poor

Joan's literary attempts in 'A Ruling Passion' were roundly blasted by Ran-

intake and change before my eyes from a

According to a friend who has suffered

all her life under the thumb of a sister like

me, Larkin had it all wrong. "It wasn't my

parents who fucked me up," she says. "It

was Amanda." It still goes on, even though

both women are now grandmothers. They

still cannot meet without things getting

ugly. My friend will be sitting there, trying

to make polite conversation. And Amanda

will insinuate herself into the group with

thin and pretty child into a balloon.

dom House, ending up in a court case. The subject of the book? Two sis-

ters vying for control of a small European island, naturally.

have the faintest idea how to "help sisters

I did, I can't understand how my sister ever

forgave me. She was not a saint, mind you.

She was always stealing my clothes and

ruining them, then having the gall to pre-

tend it was nothing to do with her. She often

pretended I had hit her, just so that my par-

ents would punish me. But let's put this in

perspective. When I was three I filled her

pram with dirt, ostensibly so that I could

plant a flower on her face. When I was five,

I figured out how to cheat at Candyland,

and didn't let her win once all summer. I

can still remember her bewildered tears,

and my simmering satisfaction. And the

When I think of the awful, awful things



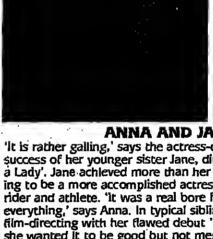
MARGARET DRABBLE AND AS BYAT

These two novelists have elevated sibling rivalry to an art form. Younger sister Drabble's first novel. 'A Summer Birdcage', looked at the relationship between two clever, manipulative sisters, whereas Byatt's 1967 novel 'The Game' examined the dynamics between, yup, two sisters, one an Oxford don, the other a novellst. Drabble has admitted, 'When we were little, we had just an ordinary sibling irritation. Things got worse when we became published writers.' Byatt's memory is more acidic. 'I devised this technique of hitting her between the eyes on the rare occasions she banged the piano lid on my fingers.' Adulthood hasn't softened her instincts. 'At the last ditch, I'm sure we'd rush to each other's help,' Byatt once said. 'But at the first ditch, not necessarily.'



ANNA AND JANE CAMPION

'It is rather galling,' says the actress-director Anna Campion of the success of her younger sister Jane, director of 'The Piano' and 'Portrait of a Lady'. Jane achieved more than her sister from an early stage, appearing to be a more accomplished actress in school drama, and a better rider and athlete. 'It was a real bore for everyone because she would win everything,' says Anna. In typical sibling style, Anna followed Jane into film-directing with her flawed debut 'Loaded'. Anna said of Jane, 'I think she wanted it to be good but not mega.' Certainly no worries on that score. Anna is philosophical about her sister's superior directing achievements. I tend to think Jane is six films ahead, and so I just wave goodbye and think I'm on Concorde and she's on the Shuttle.'



Leah Potts once said, most parents don't taller she grew, the greater the pleasure a simpering smile and take advantage of thing would be if you took care of this on the first pause in the conversation to say, your own. You'd be so good at it.' I felt like I took in watching her suffer. When I was "Have you been to Highgrove?" When my a very small 12, and my sister a tall 10, I friend snaps, "No you know I haven't, why got even by exploiting her weakness for rice puddings. What I did was give her all my are you asking me?" Amanda sighs and pocket money, so that she could double her says, "Because it's such a pity you've not

been asked. It's so lovely...' Their most recent argument concerned the disposal of their mother's ashes. According to the will, this had to happen at a specific place in the wilds of Scotland. Amanda was having trouble fitting this inconvenient duty into her social whirl, and so she decided that my friend should go on her own. "But it was the way she put it that made my skin crawl. Instead of being honest, and saying she had been invited to Highgrove, she said, I think the best years. I decided the time had come to blow

saving to her, 'Oh yes, I'm sure I will be. I'll bet I'll get a medal'."

My friend got even with Amanda at a cocktail party a few weeks later. This time, when Amanda asked her the Highgrove Question, as always in front of a lot of very important people, my friend said that she had never been there, and that chances were she never would. "Time is

running out, you see. After all, I am 60." Which should sound like a very mild statement - unless you know that everyone present knew that Amanda was the elder sister, and so could not possibly be 52, as she had been pretending for so many

the whistle on her," my friend told me. The dramas played out by rival sisters are full of such twists - which, of course, is what makes them so addictive and so treacherous. As Elizabeth Fischel points out in her book, Sisters, the balance of power between sisters is "in constant flux: at times, a relationship of equals, at times, anyone or the other may take control...

When Kate Millett had a manic episode in 1973, her elder sister tricked her into visiting an asylum and then had her committed. Following another episode in 1980, her younger sister tried to do the same thing. To put all this in perspective, it may be useful to bear in mind that Kate herself once said that half her female lovers reminded her of the older sister, while the other half reminded her of the younger.

What a thought! It's little wonder that so many sisters seek protection from each other by deliberately setting out to be different. Take Gloria Steinem's sister. She's a suburban housewife and mother and she claims she and Gloria get along because neither craves the other's turf. The Mitford sisters came to a similar truce - Jessica. you will remember, became a Communist, while Diana married Britain's leading Fascist. Both Margaret Mead and Simone de Beauvoir were able to have happy fruitful relationships with their much younger sisters by "playing mother". But what if your lives and your ambitions are too close? What does Jackie Collins think of Joan? How does Lucy Simon, the other half of the original double act, feel about her sister Carly's solo success, and how does Margaret Drabble really feel about being eclipsed by her sister?

What to make of my friend Susan's dilemma? She has tracked her estranged sister to the intensive care ward of a hospital in Australia. The sister is soon to die unless she has a bone marrow transplant. My friend Susan has offered her sister her bone marrow. But her sister so hates the thought of such a gift from her sister that she has refused it.

Her quarrel with my friend has to do with their mother's estate. Any outsider can see that there's more than enough to go round. But, of course, it's not the money that counts in these things. It's the memory of how your sister made that adorable little face, played that stinking game, and twisted your parents around her little finger to get more than her fair share of love and attention. Elizabeth Fischel calls this problem "limited resources", and you can find it at the core of just about every grievance a sister harbours against her sister.

Take my friend Janine, who was furious when her mother and sister drove 500 miles to see her, only to go into the next room to have a private giggle. How was she to know that they were planning a surprise party? As she said indignantly afterwards, "They should have told me!" It didn't even matter that their intentions were excellent. It still made her wild with anger to see her sister get something she wasn't getting. I know how she feels because once, when my sister, then about 25, woke me up to tell me that I was going to have my coffee black, as she had drunk all the milk, I sprang out of bed and tried to strangle her.

All that's in the past now. When I got divorced 10 years ago and my life fell apart, sort of lost my suthority as elder sister. And so my sister took over. She turned out to be much better at it. She's so kind to me, So wise. So much fun. So generous! I can't believe my good fortune. But it makes sense, too, that we enjoy each other's company as much as we do. After all, we have so much more in common with each other than we do with anyone else. It's been 10 years since we had anything approaching an argument. This is the most stable female friendship I've ever had, and I'm sure it will get even better as we get older.

But if she ever, ever, gets up earlier than me again and drinks all the milk...

What planet are we on?

be sisters".

Continued from page 1 a huge divorce settlement against Mick Jagger (says the Sunday People), how Ann Widdecombe and Peter Mandelson, both Librans, will be transformed "from villains to heroes", and the entire cast of Friends (mostly Leos, spookily) will

come unstuck, according to Shelley

von Strunckei in The Sunday Times. The Express and the Daily Mail are currently in the midst of a soothsayer battle for readers. The Mail offers "Jonathan Cainer's Millennium Countdown" all this week (yesterday Love, today Wealth) and a "Personal Horoscope" special free offer. The Express has the sainted Ms Orr's "Your Stars for 1999" running all week, with an eight-page pullout guide in colour. The Express offer was flagged, last weekend, by a TV commercial featuring Ms Orr. a grand, duchess-like figure, explaining why she is a good astrologer to a snappish, disembodied telephone voice, presumably The Express's

abrasive editrix Rosie Boycott, "No it wasn't me," said Boycott,

papers. At this time of the year we expect to add as many as 80,000 to the sales figures." At what cost of investment? "It's done on newsprint, and it's written by the staff astrologist, so it doesn't cost us much - in the region of £12,000".

Did a sophisticated rationalist like herself believe in star signs? "To an extent. I think horoscopes are good if they can nudge you psychologically towards something you've been half-thinking, and crystallise the thought. It's all about language. The good ones write well."

The language issue is not one that springs to mind. Mischa O'Connor in today's Daily Star advises, "Borrow an item instead of buying it and you'll save some much-needed cash"; Gemini Jane in The Sun suggests, "It is a great time to renovate or decorate your home."

Justin Toper in The Mirror, a man who fatally resembles s Glitter Band roadie circa 1972, goes for a more direct and positive approach - yesterday he promised Leos that a potent tool with which to quieten es all fiction. But the reason why "something wonderful is about to the proletariat for 4,000 years.

we dn it is because horoscopes sell take place" and Scorpios "You are about to enjoy a whole new way of life". But then Mr Toper lives on Paradise Island in the Bahamas, and is entitled to a little euphoria.

A more teasing note is struck by Jonathan Cainer in the Mail. Things have to be different in 1999," he announces boldly. "You already know, I'm sure, the things to which I refer. Why, then, does this send shock waves down your spine? Don't you trust the sky to take care of all your emotional needs?"

Then, perhaps fearing he is being over-deterministic, he writes, "Are you worrying about going from frying-pan to fire?" and we're back with the essence of horoscope writing: blandness, holding steady, walking your own path, playing a strategic game, finding the middle way. The trick is to make the seething neurotic mass of horoscope readers feel congratulated on their indecision, feted for their selfishness, praised for allowing forces outside themselves to run their lives. No wonder it's been

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

27. ZAPPERS BY OLIVER BENNETT

COULD IT be that things were so much more complicated then? Did we really pull ourselves clean out of our chairs, walk over to the TV set and - risking all kinds of cardiovascular complications - manually press a button to change the channel? I can practically hear the mocking, tinny laughter of the Smash robots echoing up from

Thank God for the TV zapper - once an item of unadulterated luxury, it now comes with even the lowliest TV set. They have been democratised, and zapping has become a right, not a privilege. How do they work? Who cares? Like butlers, zappers are discreet. And they are reliable: treat your zapper well, feed it the occasional battery, and it will reward you for years. Rarely do zappers go wrong. They are the unsung special agents of home entertainment. Little effort is put into making them look good, for zappers are mere

functionaries. Of course, zappers can be irritating. Like gloves, umbrellas and matchboxes, they are good at getting lost children are particularly good at finding them obscure new homes. For this reason, households circumscribe a zapper home-turf, usually atop the TV set, while hotels often have them on a bendy wire like a telephone receiver - oddly. people like to nick them even

near-erotic allure. The classic zapper hidingplace is under a sofa cushion. But sometimes they elude us for longer, and we are thrown back into the dark age of manual channel-changing - making us love the zapper even more when

without a host TV. Such is their

though they are nothing

it re-emerges. Zappers have even helped change home entertainment. No longer does the family have to commit itself to one stodgy programme. With zappers. television consumption is a

promiscuous search for instant gratification. And frankly, this model suits the medium much better than the patrician fallacy of "instructive" TV.

Zappers have carved their own special role in small group interaction. Command the zapper, and you are the king of infinite televisual space. Lose the zapper, and you are at the mercy of the tribe leader. People get over this by taking

turns with it, or throwing it from chair to chair in informal rotas. But as TV watching is increasingly a single person's activity, this is not too great a

problem. Zappers have also introduced interesting new body language

variations. Some aim a zapper like a gun, putting their whole bodies behind it. Others have a more quizzical, circular approach. Zappers can even offer a substitute for language; a kind of semaphore. A friend's elderly relative had suffered a stroke, causing chronic dysphasia. Rather than attempt to speak, his emotions were conveyed via zapper-fire - rapid staccato channel changes expressed anger; sprightly hopping showed a lively interest. smooth, considered channel surfing meant that calm reigned.

Zappers are finding new applications daily. Many already have zappers for their stereos: some have them for their curtains. Advocates of "smart" domesticity suggest that households will soon sport a mega-zapper for everything: kettle-boiling, window-opening possibly even toilet-flushing. But somehow it is the combination of the TV set and zapper that achieves true symbiosis.

Rock the te

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I think I'll go and eat worms

John Hegley never seems to be in the frame when there's a prize to be won. In fact, some would ardly dass him as a 'poet' at all. All the more reason to make him Poet Laureate. By Judith Palmer

used to enjoy spitting on lit- "Dannie Abse once wrote in a jour- strangers he warned me about/ hut tle bits of tissue and flicking nal that my stuff wouldn't endure, without the sweets." them at other children and I did then actually go up to him much more than I enjoyed poetry," aemits John Hegey. "But I always loved having lng, on my heath, saying dib dib db, lob dob ddb, or reciting the Litary: Blessed be God. Blessed be His lov Name' - insisssstent, reing I want to go round with my lentlesses language," he surges cate hismically, unleashing this barrag of sibilants as vigorously as is there?" he asks, with an acgobbet of Kleenex from a warriorcusatory yet imploring stare. scholboy's ruler

"Et as soon as you call some-thing petry, you're in trouble. It's aliented from our lives. Maybe the word petry is a bit worn out," he suggess. "Would people be less snottyf it were called hingo? Or pingo?oetringo Lingo? Would it changthings?" he demands, the frenzie rhymes ringing through his core-spoon on to his saucer "The logo Laurente! Doesn't that sound rilliant?"

Line King or Poet Laureate, whateer you choose to call it, William Hill has been offering odds of 14 for Hegley to succeed Ted Hughs to the royal butt of sack. An unliky decision perhaps, but the 45year-id cabaret poet would be a far frommpopular choice. Last October BBOudiences voted Hegley's scatologial limerick about Miserable Malolm's anally stoppered Rottweilts number two in the poll for the ration's favourite comic poem. John Feel sessions, Radio 4 series, Newright appearances, a longrunning niche in The Guardian and a regularly reprinted volumes. commanded by years of tireless toum; have made Hegley as familiant the beatings of the public heat is a poet is likely to become.

o Sunday, London's Aimeida Thate plays host to a night of reading bythe 10 writers shortlisted for the TSEliot Poetry Prize, this year pitingled Hughes against an estimplicast including Jo Shapcott, Rith adel, Jackie Kay and Paul Mildon You won't find Hegley amongheir number, yet ironically, you wi find him filling the same Almeia auditorium every other night tis week, as he embarks on an amtious run of solo performances ised on his new collection.

BeuonOur Kennel. Doe It worry Hegley that the world : mainstream poetry consistent fails to pick him to play on

their tan?

nal that my stuff wouldn't endure, after a reading to show him a poem I thought was one of my best. I don't relationship still causes flash-points think he was overly impressed. Fair enough. If he thinks it's not poetry, fair enough. I know I'm making myself vulnerable by saypoems like this, but there's nothing wrong with being vulnerable,

Pre-emptively self-deprecatory on-stage and off, Hegley is an obsessively hard worker and inveterate worrier. Peering out from those Elvis Costello-issue NHS specs, chin jutting. Adam's apple bobbling, he's edgy, anxious, gawkily angular inside his skinny dark suits. His

> Mental Health Poem by John Hegley

When he went out of his mind we helped him find the key to get back in It was behind the dustbin. The one that had it in for him

poetic world is unremittingly English and nostalgic, elegising trainspotters and low-budget camping, bungalows, dogs, glasses, and Luton Town FC - a world of unfulfilled yearnings, of everyday banalities punctuated by trauma and guilt. Moral crises abound; how to enter a newsagent with a paper you've bought elsewhere, whether it's a sin to dodge buying a bus ticket if you've already paid for a travel card but lost it the vegetarian ethical dilemma of continuing to buy cheese from the hutcher "even though I know/ that cheese money and meat money/ are not separated in the till."

Idiosyncratic, uproariously funny

(only occasionally squibbily offtarget). Hegley's poems are nearly always underpinned by a wrenchingly uncomfortable poignancy. The boy Hegley torments his younger sister, and frames her for his own petty calumnies, such as scribbling over his cub scout diary. In return, Hegley père , foams at the mouth and flexes his belt: "I didn't understand his need "I case to worry," he sighs. about his father, "He was one of the January (0171-359 4404)

Now a father himself, Hegley finds the memory of this antagonistic of anger, but Beyond Our Kennel (dedicated "for my old dad") finally allows some redemptive healing. The poem "Mything my Father" gently lays to rest the guilt of missing his father's death (nearly 20 years ago, when he unexpectedly finds himself lighting a requiem candle on a recent holiday to Greece.

"I know a lot of what I do is verse," he says, "but here in Beyond Our Kennel is the beginning of something more poetic. It is my entrance to the guild - what was once called the masterpiece' - I could submit this, and they can say, 'you can come in', or 'you cannot come in'."

Hegley started as a husker, singing in shopping centres in the late Seventies, accompanying his then girlfriend as she travelled the country working at flea markets. In the early Eighties he hooked up with rival buskers to form The Popticians, then started to make a name at the Comedy Store, "If I do an hour- anda-half show, there's still easily 20 minutes you could do on a stand-up stage," he says. "But I don't want to just make people laugh all the time; they'd be short-changed. In the last few weeks I've also started writing songs again, and I find they're more close to poems than any of the verse stuff I've ever written. There's more ambiguity."

Ambiguity, though, Hegley believes, can be taken too far. "I feel disenfranchised from a lot of contemporary poetry," he says, "Sometimes the drunken facility helps, but usually I don't understand a word of

it... I don't think the people at the Luton Town Supporters Club are going to go for it, hut maybe those writers don't care. I like the puzzling aspect of poetry, hut I want my work to be understood." He's unduly defensive. Maybe

he shares more points of contact with other poets than he appreciates. "A man came up to me at a gig recently waving a crossword puzzle." he recalls. "Poet, six letters

H_G_E_. He'd put me, and got the

answer wrong. Hegiey and Hughes,"

he laughs. "Who would have thought

we met so nearly?"

Beyond Our Kennel' is published by to wallop me so much / Except Methuen, £8.99. John Hegley is at the that it kept us in touch." He writes Almeida Theatre, London N1, to 9



The poet at his unease: I know a lot of what I do is verse, but this is the beginning of something more poetic'

Glyn Griffiths

Rocked by the tempest

THE AUFN Quartet was born in Chlognas long ago as 1981. Althoughthey're well travelled, I ce't remember them visiting tis country before Saturday, when they gave a concert athe Wigmore Hall with the merican pianist Peter Orth Naumburg Competition prewinner, like our

own Stephn Hough. Last yer Orth and the Auryn Qutet released an impressiveD of Faure's two piano quints, and they included the sond on Saturday. What emers was how decisively Ortheemed to determine the laracter of the performanc.

He's a veistrong, even wilful, player, at quickly asserted an exposive way of phrasing in a development of the first movment of Mozart's G minor Pias Quartet. In the Rondo ther of the finale be teased out tirhythm slightly by delaying ctain notes - just enough to hdistinctive, but not so muchs to seem artificial. It certaly didn't cause disunity withis partners.

In any casMozart's pianist is not harneed to the string players qui so tightly as Fauré's, and Fauré's Second Piano Quint the possibilities of even screet independence are ptty limited. For much of theme, the pianist is doing prty well just to

With its crearial Scherzo and, in the her three movements, strige, exploratory modulation there's an element of winess - though tempered | stoicism - which produces anost unusual and ambiguousmotional climate. movement. Despite il radiant C major

CLASSICAL

AURYN QUARTET AND PETER ORTH WIGMORE HALL

conclusion, which arrives rather sooner than expected (because the finale is so concise), the prevalent emotions are something like sadness and resignation. But one of the many wonderful things about this music is that you can't be sure.

There was nothing uncertain, though, in the assurance and power of Saturday's performance. The musicians sounded as if they had really lived a long time with the music, and the Scherzo was breathtaking. I pitied Orth's

hapless page-turner. Fauré was unique in writing two masterpieces for a comparatively rare and rather problematic medium. But probably the best known of all piano quintets is the one by Brahms - although, ironically, he took a long time to decide exactly which instruments he was writing it for

These players gave the first movement a feeling of deep emotional struggle, dramatising its adventures at some expense of line, so that the total effect was distinctly stormtossed. I'm not really complaining: the playing was so committed, and the slowly rocking motion of the second movement was most artfully tilted, first by Orth, then by the strings, as if beguiling us into slumber. No holds barred, either, in the Scherzo and final

ADRIAN JACK

Sunshine, happiness and all that stuff

Fille Mal Gardée is surely the best, most enjoyable fullevening ballet created this century: full of sunshine and happiness. It has everything: a good story about interesting characters, invented by Jean Dauberval in 1789 and enjoyed ever since; it has comedy, love and, just beneath the bal-

letic conventions, a great truth

of real life.

John Lanchbery's arrangement and extension of the early scores makes an irresistibly attractive base, and Lanchbery himself is conducting most performances in this revival. Osbert Lancaster's designs, although cramped and makeshift, evoke a wonderful rural setting. And, above all, there is choreography of sheer genius: full of virtuosity, but so lightly done that what you see is always the natural expression

of situation and character. That is why Fille is a pleasure to watch, even in a less than ideal performance, and I have to report that standards DANCE

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON

have varied a lot over the past week. So many years have elansed since the Royal Ballet last gave it that almost all the dancers are new to their roles, and perversely the management decided to pitch no fewer than six new casts on stage in only five days.

I watched them all, but some are better passed over in silence, whether through miscasting, or misconceived or insufficient preparation. Let me concentrate on the best-although the worst also demands comment: Ashley Page's playing of Widow Simone on opening night was dreadful, full of inappropriate facial mugging, poor rhythm in the famous clog dance, and not the slightest touch of femininity anywhere.

The best performance of the heroine, Lise, who manages to escape her mother's vain pre-

imply, could kiss my chuddies.

material mined the same rich

seam as the television pro-

and make jokes both about

Asians, and British percep-

had at a predominantly white

school. "I really, really wanted

to be white, because you had to

He recalled the difficulties he

tions of them.

For all that, his strongest

cautions against true love, came from Miyako Yoshida: dancing that was musical and spirited. But she had done it before, in the Birmingham production, so let's single out the voungest of the newcomers. Mara Galeazzi, for the freshness and truth of her debut. Much promise, too, from Belinda Hatley and Sarah Wildor. especially if they will both calm down a little in their acting.

Wildor had Bruce Sansom as her elegant, charming lover, Colas. Hatley's Colas was the company's new principal dancer, Carlos Acosta. The strength and smoothness of his dancing were everything we had hoped and expected (although he needs to work on the one-handed lifts); the hig surprise was the detail and conviction of his acting.

The most rewarding debut in the other roles was Jonathan Howells as Colas's rich hut simple-minded rival, Alain: a notably individual portrait, excellently danced. Alastair Marriott was the best new Simone



(he and Yoshida brought alive the love between mother and daughter), with Luke Heydon

dancing of the corps de ballet, them to have so much lively especially the women, had a joythe most hopeful of the others. ful animation that was a delight

At every performance the to see. What a pleasure for dancing to do - and it shows.

No chuddies please, we're British

ON SUNDAY at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sameev Bhasker had no intention of pandering to any groupies with catchphrases from his hit BBC2 sketch show goodness gracious me, no. The first words of his solo live act, The Spiceman Cometh, were: "Good evening, hello. Innit, cheque please, kiss my chuddies. Good, now we've got

that out of the way." In the ensuing two-and-ahalf hours, he made not a single reference to the characters from Goodness Gracious Me. Fans of the show, he seemed to

COMEDY SANJEEV BHASKER QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

gramme: the sometimes confusing experience of being British-Asian. As in Goodness questions: Do you eat curry for breakfast? Why do you smell so Gracious Me, Bhasker was able to exploit his dual identity funny?" In the end, I had to say,

'Look, you're the teacher You should know'." School Nativity plays also posed a problem. "No matter what part I auditioned for, 'I shall give you a rendition of my kindergarten version of Jimmy

put up with all those ridiculous Porter in Look Back in Anger',

it was always, 'Yes, go and over-long and, often reading you remember?" humour. But Three Wise Men."

Bhasker went on to recall how, when he was young, it was stage by instruments - he impossible to go to the cinema in a group of fewer than 25 hut neglected to be funny. And people. "All children under five would then be wound up and made to run up and down the aisle for the entire duration of the film... and not one of them

became a bloody athlete." That's not to say that everything went smoothly for Bhasker's is a rather conserv-Bhasker. The show seemed ative form of observational "do

songs - he was surrounded on showed great musicianship, was the Queen Elizabeth Hall really the best choice of venue for comedy? Great acoustics,

Those quibbles aside, it was a pleasingly original evening of stand-up comedy. Technically,

shame about the formality.

stand with Mohammed and from notes, he admitted that his comedy of shared exper-Whangi. You're one of the some of the material was "work lence has a freshness about it, in progress". On many of his because his particular experience has so rarely been shared before on the circuit.

How often have you seen a comedian sign off with a double-edged gag about Asian stereotypes? "Td like to say a thank you to the members of my extended family who are here tonight - and to the other three people who got in."

As Bhasker never said: wicked, innit.

JAMES RAMPTON

What's the best way to make sense of a cluttered world? If you're Tomoko Takahashi, it's obvious. Sculpt in junk. By Kate Mikhal

Rubbish. Absolute rubbish

what it looks like. Rusty, broken, yellowed objects strewn in all directions, and in the corner three figures huddled in intense conversation - discussing their plan to hring order to the chaos.

The sculptor Tomoko Takahashi and her helpers have spent weeks gathering this mass of material for the forthcoming Saatchi exhibition, Neurotic Realism, and it is going to take a further two weeks to transform the odds and ends into an ambitious, knock-out art installation.

Standing at just over 5ft, Japanese-born Takahashi is dressed for comfort and work. She wears a large red shirt, baggy shorts over thick tights and black, rectangularframed specs, and has her hair casually tied hack. I describe her because you're unlikely to catch a glimpse of her To say that Takahashi is extremely media shy is an understatement. The artist has consistently refused to have her photograph taken - she wants her art to speak for itself - and in the artists' biographies put together by the gallery she has chosen to be represented by a clock face rather than the usual photographic portrait.

Takahashi breaks away from the group and picks her way across the gallery toward me. "I'm treating this space as a hlank, white canvas," she says, before disappearing to unearth a packet of cigarettes and lighter, no easy task in a warehouse gallery that conjures up an image of your local scrap merchant and refuse dump all rolled into one.

Cigarette in hand, she is warm and friendly, her hroken English falling out in a rush as she tries to explain the mechanics and thought processes behind the task before her Somehow, she will bring a satisfying order to the jumble surrounding us. She will tidy up the mayhem, and make sense of it all.

I, too, would like to bring some order to the mind-scrambling clutter of old cookers, radiators and filing cabinets, hut my only answer would be to hire half a dozen skips and fill them. Takahashi's approach is a touch more purposeful

However, it's early days, and Takahashi admits that she still only has a hazy idea of what the end reo be. There will be from the beams and narrow paths weaving through debris attached to the floor, and it will be dimly lit, but any more than that she can't say. "I don't have an aim. It's more like an improvisation. With this type of work, I just gather the things that I like and then I play around with it."

Takahashi, who, conveniently, lives above a junk shop in north London, has always worked with electrical gadgets and office paraphernalia, imposing artistic control it's all valuable "historical evidence"



Main picture: Tomoko Takahashi's 'Clockwork at Hales' (1998); below: a photograph of the clock face she has nominated to stand in for her portrait

on an indecipherable mess. One of which, she says, is "a bit like arthe hardest things, she says, is simply remembering all the things

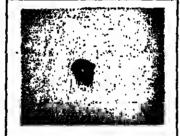
that are at her disposal. The motley collection of dilapidated computers, domestic appliances and well-used gadgetry is, i bundles of cables hanging down was surprised to learn, not just a mass of discarded rubbish. A lot of the things are on loan and have homes to go to, once the exhibition comes to an end. Takahashi likes the idea that the objects have owners and are of value to someone. And by taking them away from their owners, she sees herself as giving them a new lease of life, particularly the electrical equipment, much of which

has not been plugged in for years. As far as Takahashi is concerned,

chaeology", a "lost civilisation" that has, until now, been stashed away in various sheds and cupboards.

Some items were scavenged from skips - a leftover from art school days, when money was short and the use of bricologe a financial necessity - while other pieces were snapped up at car boot sales. And the winner of the 1997 East International award has also recycled two of her earlier installations, Beaconsfield and Clockwork, both of which are now owned by the Saatchi Gallery. A close inspection reveals that some of the hammers, nails, and even old shop receipts, carry silver tags

marking them as Saatchi property. Just visible under the carpet of tangled wires, old TV sets, electrime a sense of the space, so as I did



cal gadgets and rusty bits and pieces, lines of black and silver sticky tape sweep out in all directions marking out a basic floor plan. These took five days to map out, but without them, Takahashi says, she could never have got to grips with the huge gallery space: "They gave

it, I got to know how big it was. Now I am very familiar with it and not too Takahashi is not one to analyse scared. It's just guidelines and has made it manageable. The composition itself will go on top, so will ignore these lines."

Tucked to one side, a scrunchedup sleeping bag, surrounded by cartoons of fruit juice and mince pies, marks out Takahashi's sleeping quarters; the artist's total selfimmersion in her works means that she often sleeps on site, working through the night and sleeping in the morning. "The night is the best," she says. "The most manie time is after midnight until seven o'clock in the morning." Other tell-tale signs of life dotted around the vast, echoing, 30by-18-metre gallery include overflowing ashtrays, a half-eaten loaf of

Takahashi is not one to analyse her own work: "I do not think it's relevant," she explains. "It would be like analysing your birthmark, which I'm not that keen to do." She cannot say who she is induenced by or what her goals are. Instead she works instinctively, only coming to understand her works sometimes months

after they are first put together. "It's all subconscious. I really don't know what I'm doing. I know the direction, like a painter. It's a traditional way of working and takes a lot of control... yes," she erupts with

laughter. "I'm the control freak." Takahashi has described her work as "visual music". "It's quite an abstract collection," she says, "which is why I think of music,

which is quite abstract, and not I'm at the stage when I'm compone" And there will be music, of sort,

which will come from whæver sounds the machines can maage "Everything will be plugged hand working in some sort of strangway. It's going to be fun." And when it's all over? It il be

photographed, filmed and draw the objects will he packed up tent home, or put in storage, an the gallery will revert to a blank civas enough to make even the tidst of minds cry out for a return to attle controlled chaos and confusion

Neurotic Realism', at the Satchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road ondon NW8 (0171-328 8299), 14 Janary

The Shape of Arts to Come

NEXT WEEK

Starting in next Monday's Review, a weekly guide to the men and women set to become movers and shakers in the 21st century



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THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART THIS WEEK: DAVID PAGE

DAVID PAGE'S witty illuminated plants, up to six feet tall, flourish in the fertile territory between fine art and decorative art. That might sound like an academic point, hut it is basic to their appeal – and to their popularity among

their taste hut eager to huy art for the home. Their maximum illumination of only 20 watts classifies them as light sculpture rather than light fittings; they exude a soft glow rather than lighting up the room. And the wire that supports the tissue-paper skin is modelled in much the same way as the armature of a clay

Brits who are unsure of

sculpture. The difference is that it remains visible. "They are an extension of drawing," says Page. "I feel I am drawing not with a

pencil but with wire." Page, who is 33, studied fine art at the University of East London with the notorious Jake Chapman and Sam Taylor-Wood, whose work lacks Page's homely touch. He says that people often leave his sculptures permanently switched on, so that they are something welcoming to come home to. He also makes illuminated dogs. pigs and cattle.

The plants, some of them like giant, floor-standing leeks from another planet. were inspired by the observation that most house plants soon end up unwatered and dead. "These don't need water,"



he says. "You just plug in for instant greenery."

The semi-translucent tissue is sturdy, hand-made stuff from Tibet - fireproof, of course. The adhesive is wallpaper paste, plus a secret additive.

commissioned 120 of Page's

light sculptures, including two life-size human figures. Having brought a seasonal golden glow to the shop, they were all sold.

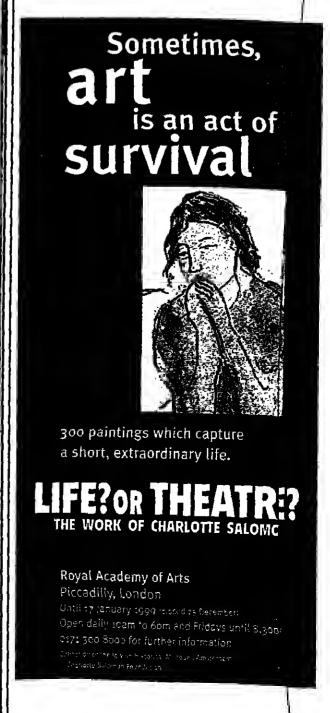
Since then, Page has had three successful shows at the Rebecca Hossack Two Christmases ago. Gallery, in Fitzrovia, central London, and has branched The Conran Shop in out into illuminated London's Fulham Road

handbags, which can either

be put on the floor or hung on pegs

The gallery is certainly impressed, saying: "David has broken a tradition of over-precious tissue-andwire lighting. No home should be without one."

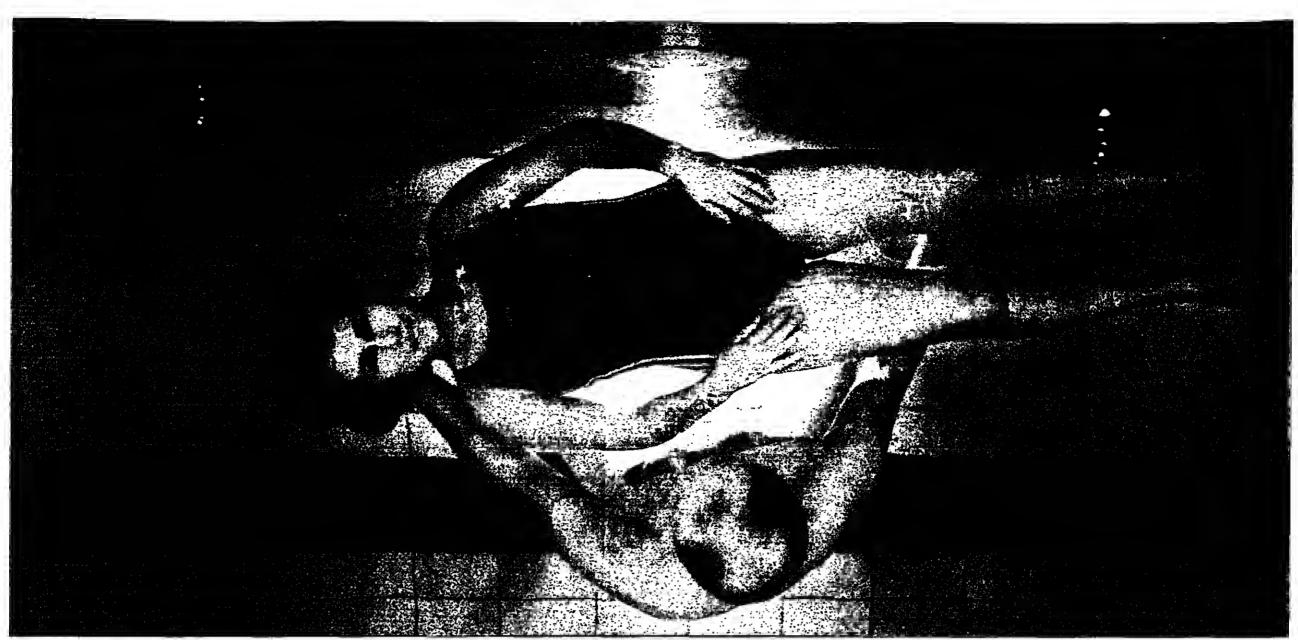
Prices range from £39-£250; Rebecca Hossack Gallery,



SDAY REVIEW lent 5 January 1999

Kate Mikha

HEALTH



Teaching Alexander Swimming relies on the principle that if you stop trying so hard to get things right, a new skill will come naturally

Lie back and learn to crawl

You've got the determination, the Speedo bathing-suit and the anti-chlorine shampoo, but despite years

of practice at the local pool you still swim like a dog. Just relax and go with the flow, says Steve Crawshaw

ver-eating, overdrinking, over-everything in recent days? It's that time of year again, when the nation collectively heaves into guilt mode, and feels that it should do something Healthy and Sensible in the coming months.

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CITY OUT OF LANGESTINE

ing to be tim-

If you're going to do something healthy and sensible, it is not a bad starting-point to choose something that might have a chance of being satisfying and fun. Until recently, I had reconciled myself to accepting that my swimming was doomed Suddenly, I have found that I can swim more or less properly, instead of floundering around in a hopeless mess. Surprises don't come much

higger than that. I blame my poor swimming on the geography of my upbringing. I was born and grew up by the seaside. Consequently, like most of my classmates, I never learnt to swim.

We went to the beach a couple of everybody else seemed to swim And to do it I do not even have to try. straight back, and you also end up then go for it. In his words: "Tradtimes a week; we learnt enough to so elegantty. In addition, head-in
The improvement. I should add, in pain. Find a relaxed straightness itionally, the emphasis is on making swim from A to B. But it wasn't exactly fancy stuff. School tests involved swimming (a) 10 yards (paddle fur-

iously) (h) 25 yards (paddle more furiously) and (c) 50 yards (bravo!). Once you had completed the 50-yard test, you were deemed to be fully competent. Technique? Forget it. In common with millions of others, my swimming involved my head

protruding from the water, like a lost dog. All attempts to try anything different turned me into a spluttering mess. I assumed this was a permanent condition, the conjugation of my life: I swam like a dog, I swim like a dog, I will always swim like a dog. When I visited the local pool,

the-air lengths were desperately tedious. I remained the swimmers'

is not because I have turned into a - avoid what Alexanderers call an effort. Our emphasis is on letting natural born swimmer. The clue was "endgaining", where you think so go. It's more like learning t'ai-chì, a equivalent of a rusty old bicycle, a few sessions of something called hard about the result that you never while everyone around me per- Alexander Swimming - based on the achieve it - and you may be lucky.

Put your head in the water, stop trying – and that's it. Can learning to swim really be that easy? Apparently so

formed an aquatic Tour de France. tried and tested Alexander Techa different world. I keep pace with all those macho swimmers at the pool who make such a demon-

And now, all of a sudden, I inhabit nique. The original Alexander Technique is based on the principle that you should stop trying so hard to get things right. Slouch, and you end up strative fuss about Swimming Fast. in pain; try too hard to keep a

Steven Shaw, a trained Alexander teacher and former competitive swimmer, has, together with his wife Limor, also an Alexander teacher extended the same principle to swimming. Take it easy: and

sequence of moves, than covering a certain amount of lengths in a certain time." In past years, I had tried conventional swimming lessons in order to cure the difficulties, with little success. I decided that if you fail to learn these things properly as a child, then you have missed the

final host. Now, however, I discover that I was mistaken. My breast stroke is Definitely Not Bad - at least by comparison with some of those who clearly think of themselves as the aquatic bee's knees. And as for the crawl - I hesitate to make any great

claims, lest you run into me at the pool and say: "Ha! How could you describe that as a decent crawl?' But if you had seen what passed for my version of the crawl before, you would be as astonished by the improvement as I have been.

Put your head in the water, stop trying - and that's it. Can it really be that easy? Apparently so. Shaw's method has some impressive advocates, including the former Olympic swimmer David Wilkie.

Meanwhile, for perfect happiness, all I now need is to learn to dive. I've wanted to dive since I was 10 years old. Thirty years later seems as good a time to learn as any. So, if you see somebody at the pool doing superbly supple somersaults culminating in an oh-so-elegant dive - it is sure to be me.

Show Method of Swimming, 27 Greenway Close, London N20 8ES;

A finger on fungus | Why won't he take his Viagra?

MY TOENAILS and fingerpails are turning opaque and ugly. How can this be treated? There are two common causes of this - psoriasis, and fungal in-fection of the nails. Psoriasis is usually thought of as a skin condition, but it can also affect the nails, causing them to become deformed, with white, tiny pits on the surface. It is possible to have very minor skin psoriasis and quite bad nail psoriasis. Fungal infections of the nails are more common on the toenails. They are caused by a variety of organisms and the only way to be sure of the cause is for your doctor to send a sample of the nail off to the

microbiology laboratory Psoriasis of the nails is difficult to treat, but the same creams that are used on skin psoriasis can he used around the nails. Fungal infections of the nails can be treated with anti-fungal tablets - terfenadine is the most effective. But you have to take the tablets for many months and there are potentially serious side effects. I often think the treatment for

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A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

fungal nail infections is worse than the disease, and I discourage patients from using these tablets unless the infection is severe. Another unusual cause of ugly nails is yellow nail syndrome, which makes the nails thick and yellow. Vitamin E seems to help this.

I AM going to be travelling for a year in South America and I would like to find out my blood group, but my GP refuses to test me on the grounds that it is a waste of time. How can I persuade him to change his mind?

Many hospital laboratories now refuse blood-grouping requests for travellers because they believe it is of no practical use. Any medical facility, no matter how remote, that is capable of giving a blood transfusion, will also be able to check blood groups and, more importantly. test your blood against the blood of a potential donor to make sure there is not a mismatch. Even if you did know sonally to questions

your own blood group, you would have no way of knowing the blood group of a potential donor, unless you were travelling with a companion whose blood group was also known to be compatible with your own. One simple and altruistic way of discovering your blood group is by becoming a blood donor.

To find out the name of your nearest donor centre, ring 0345 711711. If you are travelling to remote areas with poor medical facilities there is a risk of bepatitis B or HIV infection from unsterile needles. Take a pack of sterile needles and syringes. These can be purchased from travel medical centres.

I FIND injections and blood tests terribly painful I have heard of a cream that numbs the skin. Does it work?

There are two creams, Ametop and Emla, that anaesthetise the skin before an injection or blood test. Both are local anaesthetics that have to be applied before the injection and covered with a special plaster. They are routinely used in children's wards, but there is no reason why an adult could not use them. Ametop is available from chemists without a prescription, but Emla requires a doctor's prescription.

Send questions to A Question of Health, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk.Dr Kavalier cannot respond per-

Some men go to great lengths to get their pills, then simply don't use them. By **David Delvin**

JONATHAN, AGED 35, bas been, and gave him the blue pills. Six as he puts it, "plagued with impotence" throughout his 10year marriage to Sue. In the spring of 1998 he man-

aged to find his way to one of the few clinics that were offering Viagra. He paid a great deal of money for a consultation, and then went home to Sue, proudly bearing a supply of the diamond-shaped hive pills.

Eight months later, he hasn't taken any of them. Every few weeks he rings up the clinic to postpone his next appointment. "So sorry," he says. "I just haven't had time to try the Viagra yet. Very busy, you see."

During the last year or so, I've seen at least a dozen patients like him: men who jump through hoops to find a doctor who will prescribe Viagra for them, and then don't take it.

Why? They tend to shy away from the question and say things such as, "The opportunity hasn't really come along."

My own impression is that for many of these men, the whole object of the exercise is simply to get hold of the tablets. After that, they feel that they need do nothing more.

Pablo - a thrice-married executive of 43 - begged me to see him. He claimed he had to have Viagra NOW. "You see," he said, "my wife will be ovulating tomorrow. We're desperate to have a child. So I need to take the stuff tonight." I saw him, examined him

ting them. I am the hunter-gatherer of the family, you know." I'm not alone in having seen so many patients who never get round to taking their Viagra.

months later, they're still un-

touched. Why? Well, according

to him, he's not really sure that

his wife has ovulated yet. Still,

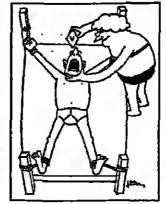
he says with some pride, "Tve

earned a lot of Brownie points

from her hy going out and get-

Consultant urologist Mr Colin Kennedy of Bury St Edmunds recently told a doctors' meeting: "Some men just get the pills and put them in their hip pocket and that's that. It's as if they're saying: 'Oh, I'm not impotent. It's just that I don't choose to take the tablets." I think that in a few cases,

the men who don't use their expensive little pills are afraid to take them because of fear of side effects. Fair enough: there is still quite a question mark



over whether Viagra causes this man's erectile dysfuncheart deaths - though the manufacturers claim that no link

has been established.

But in many other instances, the reason why the man doesn't use his "blue diamonds" is to do with his own sexuality.

Last summer, Trevor, a Welsh schoolmaster was dragged along to see me by his wife. In November, his packet of four pills was still intact, and I eventually realised why: Trevor is actually gay, and has no real interest in having sex with Mrs Trevor. He is not impotent when he is with men.

Similarly, a urologist friend of mine encountered a patient who never takes his pills because he, too, doesn't want to make love with his wife. The reason? He has a perfectly good mistress in Shropshire and he's not impotent with her.

Then there are couples who don't use Viagra because the man's impotence has become "part of the relationship". It sounds like Pseuds' Corner jargon, but any psychiatrist will tell you there are marriages that only function if the husband remains impotent.

Steffan is a 38-year-old lecturer whose marriage had never been consummated because he couldn't get much of an erection. He wistfully mentioned to his doctor that he would like a son, so the GP sent. him to me with a note saying. "Please do something about

tion." There were no contra-indications, so I gave him the medication. Steffan took one of his tablets, but his wife was so horrified at the resulting erection that she walked out on him, and didn't come back for a fortnight. So he definitely won't be

using the rest of them. It's important to realise that this much-hyped drug isn't a "magic bullet" which will cure all bedtime ills. Sure: it works

well for a lot of males with erectile dysfunction. Indeed, many men are enormously grateful that this drug has given them back their virility. But for some couples, the emotional complexities of their relationships are far, far too tangled to be unravelled by a mere pill.

David Delvin is a doctor specialising in psycho-sexual problems. All names have been



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Parents worried about their children's eating habits could now be reassured. By Annabel Ferriman

Fat is an infantile issue

mon complaint that doctors hear from parents, many of whom worry that that their children are abnormally thin, Now, there is a tool that parents can use to judge whether their children really are significantly underweight, or just on the slim side. It also tells them whether their child is obese.

The Child Growth Foundation, a charity set up to publicise the importance of monitoring growth, has published charts, recording the Body Mass Index (BMI) for boys and girls in the UK, showing what is average, what is obese and what is significantly underweight.

While many adults know their own BMI, because they want to discover whether they are thinner or fatter than average, few people know their children's index. And if they do know it, it has not been much use, because there has been no way of comparing it with that of other children of the same age.

Parents have been able only to consult height and weight charts, to see how their children measure up. These charts can be difficult to interpret if your child is in different positions on the two different graphs. If, for example, your son is much taller than most boys (among the top 90 per cent for his age), but about average for his weight, does that indicate that he is not eating enough? Not eating the right things? Or failing to absorb the food properly? Should you take him to see a doctor?

Now such a parent can measure their child's BMI (see box) and see whether he or she is within the range of normality; between, say, the bottom 2 per cent of the population and the top 2 per cent. Tam Fry. honorary chairman of the Child Growth Foundation, thinks the charts will be particularly useful in identifying obesity. "Obesity among children in this country is growing by 6 per cent. every five years," he says.

"It is often possible for doctors to spot the warning signs early on. The usual pattern of development in children is for them to put on a lot of weight in the first nine months, to lose it as they come out of infancy. and then to pick it up again in early or mid-childhood (about the age of six). That is known as adiposity rebound. Research shows that those children who start to pick it up again early (at the age of four or five), are likely to end up obese.

"Our charts enable doctors to spot this early, and warn parents that they should encourage their children to eat more healthily," Mr

He thinks that parents are going to have to monitor their children more closely in future. because many health authorities are cutting back on health visitors and school nurses, or insisting that health visitors concentrate on those families most in need of help.

"Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, for example,



Body Mass Index charts will help parents to tell if their children, like Nathan and Max Satin, really are seriously underweight or overweight

monitor children's growth after the age of two, which I think is criminal,"

'We are trying to find ways of making these charts more parentfriendly, and making them available through the Internet, or through a home computer package. We would like to design a package which could do some of the sums for parents, so that they could work out their children's BMI without too much difficulty

The new charts were created using data from several UK surveys. covering almost 15,000 children, Dr Tim Cole, senior statistician at the Institute of Child Health, London, who led the team that devised them, thinks they are useful for international comparisons and for tracking treods over time. He also thinks they could be useful diagnostically, alerting professionals if

either upwards or downwards, it would be useful for doctors to be

aware of it," he says. For example, if a child's BMI had

has said that they are not going to been going along the 50th centile for north London. Her eight-year-old several years - which means about half the population is fatter than him and about half thinner - and then fell to the 2nd ceptile - which means 98 per cent of the population is fatdeveloping a problem.

> have children of very different cent of children his age are thinner shapes is Jill Satin, of Tufnell Park, "I think these charts could be

BODY MASS INDEX

son. Max. has a BMI of 17.7, which is on the 75th centile for his age which means that three-quarters of the children of his age are thinner - while her four-year-old son, ter-it could mean that the child was Nathan, has a BMI of only 13.2, which is on the 2nd centile for his A parent who knows what it is to age - meaning that less than 2 per

a great deal about food and nutrition, and take a great deal of trouble about my children's diets. "I know that Nathan is very light. Friends pick him up and say that he HOW TO WORK OUT BMI is lighter than their two-year-olds, hut that has always been the case. Both my boys have asthma and see a paediatrician every three months.

useful, as long as they are not used

feel guilty," says Jill Satin. "I had a

health visitor once who asked me

whether I knew how to cook when

she discovered how light Nathan

was. I was insulted because I know

so they are well monitored." Not all doctors think that these charts will be useful as a diagnostic tool, however Dr David Jewell, a GP and consultant senior lecturer in primary health care at Bristol University, says: "You can usually tell if a child is overweight or under-

weight just by looking at him or her. ents are over-feeding him or her, and it is usually difficult to persuade them to do otherwise. Anyone who

that it involves hunger and denial. by professionals to make parents. Parents usually do not want to see their children go through that. They find it difficult to refuse their children food. "With children who are thin and

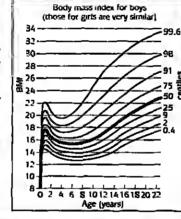
eat little, I can usually be reassuring. Some children are naturally thin and they are lucky, because they are never likely to be overweight.

"It is common for children not to eat much, and I encourage parents not to turn it into an issue. Children food, possibly for evolutionary reasons. When we were huntergatherers, children probably had lo survive on scraps from about the age of two, when breast-feeding stopped, to about 14 or 15, when they could find their own food."

Dr Jewell admits, however, that such charts could be useful for epidemiological reasons (for plotting population changes), and for parents confused by the fact that their children are in different positions on the height and weight charts.

You could work out a child's BMI, and then see whether it was within the oormal range. If it was, that could be reassuring to parents." has tried to lose weight knows he says.

For adults, the ideal BMI is bea child's BMI changes suddenly rel-The difficulty is oot diagnosing ative to his peers. tween 18.5 and 24.9, between 25 the problem, hut knowing what "If a child's BMI starts crossing and 29.9 means pre-obesity, and to do about it. If a child is overfrom one centile line to another, over 30 is obese. weight, it is often because the par-



To discover your Body Mass Index, measure your weight and height in kilos and metres then divide your weight by your height squared.

For example, if you weigh 82kg and you are 1.82m tall, the calculation is 82 divided by 1.82 squared (3.31) which comes to

For children, see chart left, between the ages of two and 17, the ideal figures range between about 13 and 27, according to age.

A pain that's hard to stomach

Many women suffering pelvic pain find it hard to get a diagnosis, let alone suitable treatment. By Barbara Rowlands

TRACEY EVERSFIELD, 31, spentan ford's John Radcliffe Hospital. entire day with her back jammed up against her wardrobe, hugging her knees to her chest. It was the only position that gave her relief from the pain that sears through her abdomen for two weeks out of every month, pain so severe she sometimes has difficulty standing.

About 15 per cent of women of reproductive age suffer from pelvic pain. Many are forced to take several days off sick every month; it is estimated that the National Health Service spends around £160m a year on tests, many of them inconclusive, to find the root of the problem.

There is a growing interest in pelvic pain, and although research indicates It may be more common than back pain, were is ignorance on the subject among the public and a general lack of interest in medical circles. GPs often dismiss it as period pain, to be endured.

Chronic pelvic pain is notoriously difficult to diagnose and many women find themselves pingponged from one specialist to another with little or no diagnosis, let alone remedy, in sight. Few gynaecologists will counsel a woman on how to deal with her pain.

"The common story you hear is of someone who goes to her GP, year after year, before she is taken seriously", says Dr Jane Moore, a gynaecologist and Searle Training Fellow in Pelvic Pain Studies at Ox-

"Then she has a tale of different diagnoses giveo to her before, eveotually, someooe alights on the correct diagnosis and she actually gets some relief."

Over the past eight years, since the birth of her second daughter, Mrs Eversfield has been in and out of hospital, seen six gynaecologists and has had a clutch of diagnoses from endometriosis to an overproduction of progesterone. She has had a laparoscopy - an exploratory operation done under general anaesthetic - and has done the round of hormones, painkillers, anti-inflammatory medication, even Prozac. She is about to undergo special physiotherapy.

"I felt I was being passed about from anyone to anyone," says Mrs Eversfield, who works as a chef. "I could cope with three or four days out of every month, hut for two weeks to be taken out of every month, when you've got to go to work and manage your children, is not acceptable. Pelvic pain is very draining. I don't think anyone realises how it can affect you."

Now, Mrs Eversfield attends the only multidisciplinary clinic in well as surgery and drug therapy.

Britain for pelvic pain, at Leicester General Hospital, one of a few centres which offer psychological treatmeot and pain coping strategies, as

time off work and it can make sex so painful that many womeo with pelvic pain rarely, if ever, sleep with their partners. "The emotional cost within relationships is severe. Pelvic pain can wreck marriages and doctors in general aren't good at hearing that," says Dr Moore.

Pelvic pain is defined as any pain in the lower abdomen or pelvis that has lasted for six months or longer, and is not linked with menstruction or sexual intercourse. It is difficult to diagnose because it

dometriosis where the lining of the womb invades the womb itself. hleeding into the uterine muscle. Then there is irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), which affects one in five young women. One study has shown that half the women referred to a gynaecological clinic for

pain. Of 100 women with pelvic

pain, between 40 and 60 will have

endometriosis. A rarer condition is

adenomyosis, a form of en-

pelvic pain have symptoms of IBS. Adhesions, scarring from infec-

There is a general lack of interest in medical circles - many GPs dismiss it as period pain

ciated with any of the organs in the abdomen (the womb, ovaries and vulva; gut and bowel; bladder or appendix; the muscles, nerves or bones), even the abdominal cavity itself. The problem is compounded by the fact that hospital consultants specialise in ooe discipline, so that a gynaecologist will have little interest in any adjacent organs.

Endometriosis, where the lining of the womb grows outside the The pain can severely affect a uterus and bleeds every month, is

could be a sign of conditions asso- tions or surgery, are another cause of pain, as is interstitial or chronic cystitis, an inflammation of the hladder wall, once believed rare, but now thought to be quite common.

Pelvic inflammatory disease. often triggered by one of the most commoo sexually transmitted diseases, chlamydia, can cause excruciating pain, as can a pelvis damaged by childbirth, or muscles and nerves trapped in scar tissue after a Caesarean,

Consultations between women

woman's life; she may have to take the most commoo cause of pelvic with pelvic pain and their gynaegeoeral, anaesthetic, so the woman cologists can be miserable affairs. Dr William Stones, a consultant gynaecologist at Southamptoo General Hospital, has conducted a study of women referred by GPs to gynaecologists for chronic pelvic

pain, and found that these considerations were often very negative. "Women go along not expecting the doctor to achieve much, and conversely the doctor doesn't expect to achieve very much either."

Most women will undergo a laparoscopy, whereby needle-thin instruments and a fibre optic tube are inserted into the pelvis through tiny incisions, and the abdomen is viewed by the specialist. Frustratingly, this will not always pinpoint the cause of the pain. Eight out of 10 women undergoing a laparoscopy for pelvic pain turn out to have a "normal" pelvis.

"A lot of women with pelvic pain don't have any obvious abnormality when you do a laparoscopy, and at least half of women with endometriosis don't have pain," explains Mr Philip Reginald, a consultant gynaecologist at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough.

To make absolutely certain the abnormal tissue on the screen is the cause of the pain, Mr Reginald has pioneered the use of "conscious pain mapping", a practice increasingly common in the US. This a laparoscopy done under local, rather than can give the doctor instant feedback

Tweaking the viscera sounds unbearably painful, but Mr Reginald has carried out the operation on 30 women and oot one asked him to abandoo the procedure. Mr Reginald is one of a handful of gynaecologists practicing this technique, and it allows for accurate diagnosis.

Professor Richard Beard, a consultant gynaecologist at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, and Britain's leading specialist in pelvic pain, has suggested that pelvic congestion - chronic dilation of the pelvic veins - leads to a build-up of blood around the pelvis and consequent pain. Professor Beard believes the condition, mainly in women in their reproductive years, is caused by poorly functioning ovaries, which is linked to stress. Treatment is with hormones to suppress ovarian activity, and a course of stress and pain management.

When nothing else works, a gynaecologist will reluctantly suggest a hysterectomy. Adenomyosis, for instance, can be diagnosed only by examining the womb after removal. For three-quarters of women a hysterectomy does the trick, but a quarter are still left with their pain.

The National Endometriosis Society, 50 Westminster Palace Gardens, 1-7 Artillery Row, London, SWAP 1RL; call 0171-222 2776

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

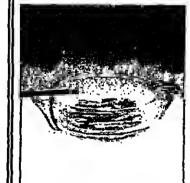
I AM not a great believer in hribery but I did make one exception. As soon as my two sons were old enough to understand the cost of a copy of The Beano and a Kinder Egg, 1 promised them £500 when they were 21 if they didn't smoke. In exactly one year's time I expect to be paying out to the eldest and I am convinced it is the best investment I will ever make in my family's health.

I am therefore out of sympathy with the Australian public who have, according to a report in the British Medical Journal, taken against Shane Warne, the cricketer, for accepting the admittedly rather more generous hribe of \$200,000 Australian dollars (£77,000) to try to give up smoking using Nicorette chewing gum.

It is not, apparently, the sum involved that has angered ordinary Australians hut the principle of bribing someone to do something that they should be doing anyway. Callers to radio stations have pointed out that promoting hair transplants, as former Test cricketer Greg Matthews did, is ooe thing hut taking money to quit smoking is quite another.

All very odd, hut it may be that in Britain we take a less self-righteous line. A New Year survey by the makers of NiQuitin CQ nicotine patches found that most people would be in favour of small hribes paid by companies to employees who tried to give up. The bonus for the employers would come in the form of lower sickness absence among

their workforce. Whatever the effect of a small bribe on an adult it cannot possibly match that of a



Bribe a youth not to smoke

large hribe on a child. In offering my sons £500 a piece, I was continuing a family traditioo (my father's offer to my hrother and sister and I was £100). My own belief is that its maximum impact on my childreo was hetween the ages of about seven and 11, when the prospect of an unimaginably large sum of money served to anchor anti-smoking messages being served up at school.

Primary school children share a universal commitment to eovironmentalism and against toxic cootaminants of all kinds, and the money meant that tobacco stood out as the most noxious substance of all.

I do, it is true, have a few hard questions to ask of the eldest ahout the long white cylinder stuck behind his ear in a photo he hrought home from university this Christmas. Perhaps it is tightly rolled crib notes on Plato, a joint, a white pen top, or a device for snorting cocaine. I was not so foolish as to believe that my hribe would eliminate all experimentation. Experimentation is inevitable necessary, even - and parenting is the art of the possible. As a friend once said to me. teenagers will always do everything at the equivalent of 100 miles an hour and the hest you can hope for is to stop them doing it at 150 miles an hour.

In its recent white paper, Smoking Kills, the Government committed £50m over three years to anti-smoking advertising to persuade young people to desist from the habit, a huge increase on the £3m a year currently spent. It would, it is true, cost a great deal more to offer a realistic hribe to every teenager who resisted the lure of the weed - plus the cost of random urine tests to check the veracity of claimants - but what hetter investment in health could we make? Like the World Health Organisation's campaign to eliminate polio, we might wipe out smoking in a geoeration

MEDIA

Are these six men the most influential journalists in Britain?

Life as an MP gives ex-hack Martin Linton a new perspective on the power of the press

am instinctively sceptical about any kind of awards to journalists. Some might say it is because I have never received one - but I would say it is because it is not possible to define what makes a "good" journalist. Perhaps I should be even more sceptical about the idea of nominating the six most influential journalists in this country, but that is what I have just done. Let me first explain why

I recently gave up a career as a journalist to become a Member of Parliament. This prompted a few radio chat shows, and more recently the UK Press Gazette, to take a look at journalistic hacks who become political hacks. The tenor of their questions was: why on earth did you give up all the power and influence of a job on a national newspaper for a job that is notoriously devoid of any power namely, that of a backbencher?

My standard response was to say it was an arrogance for individual journalists to helieve they bad any power or influence over government. None of them had power and I couldn't name more than half a dozen who had what I would call influence.

I did not have any particular half dozen in mind, but I've been asked to nominate six and I'm happy to do so, although I do it in order to emphasise how few rather than bow many journalists can be called

It would be easy to add to the list, because all journalists can influence events if they can bring new insights or information to the public debate. But I am not talking of the consequences that an article may have. I am talking more narrowly about wbether any journalists can influence government in any kind of systematic

way through the articles they write. The obvious place to look for this kind of influence is on the editorial pages of the national newspapers, the "facing" or edi-torial opinion pages, and the in-house columnists and outside contributors who appear on them. The first point to make is that articles from outside contributors are often more powerful than anything inhouse. A well argued article by an expert in the field has the best chance of influencing policy-makers hut it's tempting to rely on a stable of regular columnists who can write well and can come up with 900

words on the subject of the day by 2.30pm. In any case there are some influential columnists on my list, including Don Macintyre from The Independent, Hugo Young from The Guardian and Peter Riddell from The Times. There are others who are expert enough on their own subjects to write really powerful columns. I could mention Melanie Phillips in the Sunday Times

number of production compa-

nies on contracts that rarely

last more than three months;

getting a long-term deal to un-

cover stories is a coup that has

made the world of investigative

television journalism quite

But the company's position

as Channel 4's favourite blood-

hounds would seem to be de-

served. Last month one of Trial

and Error's key campaigns was

vindicated when Danny Mc-

Namee had his appeal against

conviction for the IRA Hyde

Park bombing upheld. Since

setting up in 1992, Just Televi-

sion has managed to get 20 con-

David Jessel denies that he

green with envy.

and Polly Toynbee in The Guardian.

outside experts. They may not write as vividly. They may not be able to bend to the pressures of deadlines. But they are far more likely - to borrow an nld advertise-

ment for The Times - to know their onions. This is an area where I am happy to acknowledge - I don't think I'm being paid for this article - that the facing page of The Independent often scores over others by finding good nutside writers. The Express and the Doily Mail are also good at commissioning outside, whereas The Guordian, for example, relies almost entirely on its own columnists. There was a time generally in newspapers when specialist journalists were often called on to write in greater depth about the issues in the news on the facing page, but they seem to have gone out of fashion.

On the right subject on the right day they are usually far more effective than the over marketed "vivid writers". I have included one example on my list, Nick Timmins, who is not only an expert on social services hut has also written the definitive history of the welfare state, The Five Ginnts.

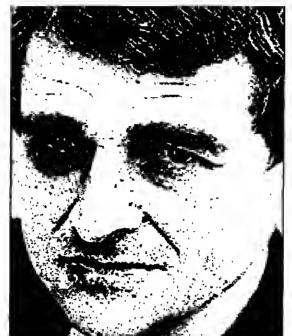
My other two nominees are the editors of The Sun and The Mirror, who wield little positive influence, hut a great deal of potential negative influence - for the wounding of reputations, rather than for the winning of arguments. Negative influence, like negative campaigning, can be devastating. You have to remember - as I'm sure Tony Blair does - that The Sun was read by a fifth of voters at its peak and. more important, a third of "don't knows"

However, Downing Street is far more likely to try to influence journalists than to he influenced by them. This is not because of the arrogance of politicians, but because journalists don't focus on policy issues in the way that politicians do. Just as politicians underestimate journalists, so journalists give too little credit to the fact that politics is a serious husiness. Its practitioners need to develop particular skills. Policy-making is perhaps the most

important. I don't pretend for one moment that my job as a Government backbencher gives me any great influence. But at least I feel I've tuned in to the debate. And having been on both ends of the politician-journalist relationship, I begin to understand how people must feel when they have been through

a sex-change operation. Politics looks very different from the inside, and so does journalism. But the two need to meet. And if newspapers are the forum in which public debate takes place. the crucible in which policies are cast and recast, then a lot of them are not exerting as much influence as they might.

Martin Linton, Labour MP for Battersea, It is more hair-raising for editors to find worked on 'The Guardian' from 1981-1997



Donald Macintyre The Independent

The Independent's Donald Macintyre, who is currently finishing a biography of Peter Mandelson, has a subtle political brain and is the kind of journalist ministers see as well worth trying to influence - though it's not easily done.



Hugo Young The Guardian

Hugo Young, a columnist for my Alma Mater. The Guardion, can be a devastatingly powerful ally to have on your side. He is widely respected, and on the right day and with the right subject, he oozes gravitas.



Peter Riddell The Times

Peter Riddell, of The Times, has a brain like a giant sponge which soaks up millions of facts before he expresses an opinion. His articles are always very well argued, although that doesn't always make them right.



Nick Timmins Financial Times

Nick Timmins, formerly of The Independent but now the public policy editor of the Financial Times, is the prototype of the specialist journalist whose influence stems from his knowledge.



David Yelland The Sun

The editor of The Sun, David Yelland, I nominate not so much for the articles be runs - two recent ones, on gays and on the euro, have blown up in his face - but for strike power on politicians' personal reputations.

ONE DAY on the discard

proposition for Charlie

in the market for "an

Whelan, Gordon Brown's

erstwhile leg spinner now

appropriate opportunity".

The DTI is looking for a

new Head of News. "You

experience of bandling the

will have considerable

media," the ad begins

hopefully, "have a clear,

the ability to use it effectively (and) will be

able to demonstrate a

Sounds promising. "You

will he able to command

the respect and confidence

contacts," it continues. So

what's the catch, apart

after his old foe Peter

which, for Mr Whelan,

£15,000 pay cut.

from having to sweep up

Mandelson? Ah yes, the

salary - a miserly £63,490

would represent around a

A NEW broom on the sixth

floor of Saatchi & Saatchi's

Charlotte Street offices in

London. Or, to be more

precise, a new mallet -

happily wielded by the

agency's international

hammerings is a wall

Saatchi. "He didn't like

when he was here last."

spokesexecutive, "so he

blocked off his corner of

mixing with the underclass

erected by Maurice

says an agency

object of Bishop's

chairman Alan Bishop. The

strong news sense."

of Ministers, senior

officials and media

strong, written style and

pile and already a tasty joh



Piers Morgan The Mirror

THE WORD ON THE STREET

For similar reasons, the editor of The Mirror, Piers Morgan, again not for the articles he runs - certainly not for those on Prince Harry - but for the articles he, usually, restrains his reporters from writing.

A contract for justice

Since 1992, Channel 4's Trial and Error team has overturned 20 cases of miscarriage

of justice. Now their success has won them a new contract. By Paul McCann

BEING A good guy can be good for you. Just Television, the investigative production company set up by David Jessel and the old Rough Justice team in 1992, bas had the kind of 1998 that most other independents can only dream of. Channel 4 has signed a contract with Just Television - which currently makes Trial and Error - for the company's team of journalists and researchers to provide Channel 4 News with 10 investigations a year. This follows a deal Just Tele vision signed with Dispatches in September to become its inhouse investigative team. Dispatches is made by a large

David Jessel denies profiting from miscarriages of justices

Phelps and Steve Haywood. are making a killing from miscarriages of justice: "The contracts from Channel 4 allow us to support on-going investigations and we have what you could call our pro bono arm. For example, there is the case now of Tony Dickinson, a alcoholic who was convicted of setting fire to a house in which two people died. Now, we haven't made a programme about him, but we have disagreed with and his partners, Stephen the Criminal Cases Review in with the BBC's scheduling cause being imprisoned for

Commission's decision to reject plans," Jessel points out. his case. So, we are taking it to judicial review, but we've not made a programme about him.

Jessel, Phelps and Haywood walked out of the BBC as a group to join Channel 4 when he realised he had found his the BBC was refusing to make more than a few episodes of Rough Justice a year. The walkout was not just because of lack than us reveal huge famines or of work: "You can't very well say corruption, whereas we focus to people, sorry you have to stew in jail another year to fit is a heightened tragedy be-

Jessel had joined Rough Justice in 1985 after a career

mainly in BBC radio and on the precursor to Newsnight, 24 Hours. Once on Rough Justice niche: "There is definitely a selfish sort of satisfaction attached to the joh. Better journalists on just one tragedy, although it

something you haven't done is like being tortured for information you don't have.

Jessel believes that the research skills perfected on Trial nnd Error - "We have our homework marked by the Court of Appeal, so it has to be pretty good" - won them the Channel 4 contracts. Just Television has already branched out into other current affairs topics - including the Monica Lewinsky case and, this week, an examination of the evidence in the Lockerbie bombing.

Some in the industry see Just Television's Dispatches and Channel 4 News contracts as evidence that the production company is a kind of conscience for Channel 4. "When Dispotches was cut back to half anhour and Dorothy Byrne was brought in from The Big Story there were worries that the programme would go down-market," says a rival producer. "If 20/20, who do The Big Story for Carlton, had won that contract, it would have been a bad sign.

"Just Television is a very solid, respectable face for Channel 4. But the admiration for Jessel and his team is tinged with jealousy: "They have the best people because the Trial and Error contract allows them to keep them," says the rival. "Triol and Error has been used as a base to

the building." Bishop confirms that his handiwork marks the first recorded example of an adman "empire destroying".

CHANNEL 5's robust response to charges that there is far too much sex in its output? A gritty, groundhreaking current affairs series called Porn Flakes.

LIKE A dose of gastric flu, that wallopingly pricey TV ad from New Millennium Experience Company was hard to miss over the Christmas break. And, like the said lurgy, it brought on similar feelings of nausea. The NMEC's media huyers secured what looked like a choice ad break for the commercial on Sunday evening - during a riveting Channel 4 documentary about the dawn of the new millennium. One of the programme's chief

conclusions? That the new

millennium in fact dawned four years ago and that the beano down nn that barren stretch of Greenwich wasteland makes about as much sense as celebrating the October Revolution in March.

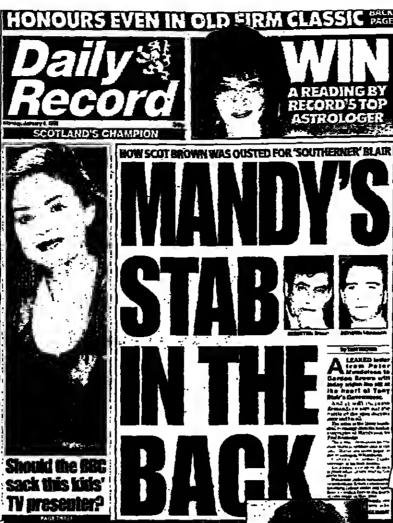
LIKE SPROUTS, sausage

meat and Emva Cream, seasonal versions of regular programmes are a staple of Christmas (and frankly about as appetising). This year we had Christmases from Hell, Christmas with the Clampers and umpteen vuletide editions of everything from Coronation Street to the weather. One rather surprising omission from the canon was a glimpse of how the season was being celebrated at the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, made famous by the acclaimed BBC 1 docusoap Lakesiders. The production company Hart Ryan was desperate to film it, the BBC keen to screen it, the shopping centre every bit as anxious to feature in it. So why no show? Over to Walt Disney for an outpouring of seasonal goodwill The company had sponsored the Lakeside's Christmas decorations and was not prepared to have even one drop of wax from Mickey Mouse's ear in shot. "It's hrand management gone bonkers," says a company source.



The Scots love their newspapers. But are they passionate enough for another Sunday title? By Mary Braid and Paul McCann





Martin Clarke is editor of the 'Daily Record', one of several titles owned by the Mirror Group in Scotland, including the Scotlish Mirror, the 'Sunday Mail', and the weekly 'Glaswegian'. It also has a stake in the



Tartan: it's the colour of money

n the good old Fifties, as myth now has it, competition between newspapers in Scotland was so keen that rival reporters would slash each others tyres to steal a yard in the pursuit of a hot story or to ensure that they were first back to the office with their copy.

In recent years that cut-throat sense of competition has returned to the Scottish media scene, hostiling virtually into all-out war.

Things began to hot up in the mid-Eighties when The Sun became the first London-based paper to set up a separate operation in Glasgow. Relations between it and the Scottish Daily Record - whose virtual monopoly of the marketplace had made it fat and complacent - quickly turned ugly.

Rival editors traded insults; The Sun even had its logo projected on to the wall of the Record's headquarters. There was no end to The Sun's zeal in its battle to win Scot-

British sovereignty against an evil Europe even came out for Scottish independence just before the country's devolution vote.

The Daily Mail. Express and Mirror have all followed The Sun north to exploit a marketplace liament in May, the launch of a new home-grown newspaper - the Sunthe Scottish operations of Englishbased papers, including The Telegraph, Times, Guardian and Independent as well as the tabloids.

These are dizzy, breathless times. The question now is whether the new investments - particularly the substantial sums being sunk into the Sunday Herald by the Scottish

Media Group - will bear fruit. The early investments were less risky. The Sun and those who fol-

tish hearts. This brave defender of lowed it north wanted a slice of the Moyses, of the Edinburgh-based UK's only booming media market. While 61 per cent of British people buy a Sunday paper, the Scottish figure is 76 per cent. For dailies the figures are 55 per cent for the UK and 65 per cent for Scotland.

Views differ as to why Scots conwhich, strangely, continues to flour- tinue to buy more papers. "People ish while sales of newspapers south just read more," says Alf Young of the border shrivel. And now the deputy editor of the Glasgow-based temperature is set to rise again with Herold, soon to launch a sister Sunbeen for as long as I can remember."

Jim Seaton, the former editor of day Herald - and the heefing-up of the Edinburgh-based Scotsman, suspects it is to do with the enduring Scottish faith in education; others say that a better education system has produced a more literate population and one with a greater interest in politics than the others that make up the UK.

Scottish media analysts are less romantic. "There are a number of reasons, but the primary one is a fanatical attachment to sport - particularly football," says Barbara

media buying agency, Feather Brooksbank "On Sundays and Mondays Scottish men often buy more than one paper to get different views of their teams.

Ms Moyses also points out that

The Scottish market flourishes while sales of papers south of the border shrivel

Scotland is "not one culture and the broadsheets here have always reflected that. There is a west coast culture - outgoing, glitzy and leftwing. Then there is an east coast culture, more restrained and middle-class. Then there is the culture of the northern cities and the Highlands..." The upshot is multiple huying on a daily basis.

Whatever the reasons - Robin Jack, of Faulds advertising agency. suggests that Scottish media consumption may have everything to do with the appalling weather - the post-partiamentary expansion now being banked on is less certain than the one that went before.

"The nature of the beast will change," says Ian McLaren, deputy editor of the Scottish Daily Mail, who, like every other editor, is recruiting for the expected b a new politics takes hold.

"At present we have appointed a political editor for Scotland and a political correspondent but we will probably need more as the agenda from the Scottish parliament develops. There will be less and less coming out of Westminster that is of interest to Scottish readers."

The reality is that all the English-

But is this really the time to launch B new home-grown title? There has been no shortage of dark mutterings and dour predictions about the Glasgow-based Scottish Media Group's announcement last year that it would launch the Sunday Herold this year.

Television and STV Enterprises, the

Some say it is a massive miscalculation, particularly as its main rival, the Edinburgh-based Scotsman Publication's Scotland on Sunday, is selling more than its most optimistic founders would have predicted at its launch more than a decade ago; in the last period for which figures are available -July to December 1998 - the average sale was 125,321, compared to 122,816 for

January to Jone. Ironically, Andrew Jaspan, who can take most of the credit for Scotland on Sunday's success, has been the Sunday Herald," says Mr Seaton. "It's very late for the Scottish Media Group to launch a rival to Scotland on Sunday, which is now firmly established and extremely successful. And it's very strange to amounce it well in advance and give the opposition so much warning."

4.4

est act

The greatest irony, says Mr Seaton, is that Mr Jaspan's higgest achievement with Scotland on Sunday was, perhaps, to shatter the traditional east coast/west coast divide Under him, the Edinburgh title also became popular in Glasgow. The Sunday Herald is up against a rival not just popular on the opposite coast but in its own backyard.

One observer is more optimistic. The new paper might still find a place in the buoyant market, he says, particularly if it is younger, more fashionable, and more arty than its rival, as Mr Jaspan has promised. A market that bucks the national trend has already managed to accommodate so many newcomers. Why not this one?

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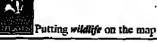
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based titles that have fought hard recruited as the Sunday Herold over the last decade for their slice editor. However, some analysts believe that his creation has grown of the Scottish market will have to provide for the new Scottish public too strong to topple. interest or face losing their place. "It's a strange decision to launch Brill's lack of style could be

the downfall of his content The magazine pitched as the watchdog of the American media seems to be chasing its own tail to oblivion. By Andrew Marshall in Washington

IT HIT the newsstands like a comet, burning its way on to virtually every front page and television news programme across the country. But Brill's Content, the media magazine launched to enormous publicity earlier this year in the US, has apparently burned out.

Steven Brill, the media entrepreneur who launched American Lawyer magazine and Court TV, looked as if he had hit gold once again when the magazine hit the newsstands. The first issue featured a lengthy look at media coverage of the Monica Lewinsky case. Mr Brill was all over the talk shows, pitching not just the product but its philosophy. It is there as a media watchdog, to maintain standards, investigate wrongdoing and brush up the sloppy practices that persist

in the American press, he said. The problem with the US media is "a lack of systematised independent accountability," he told Mother Jones magazine. "We will be a consumer guide for people to choose reliable, responsible information. We will use the marketplace to help journalists do the right thing, he told the Na-tional Press Club last year.

There has been a slew of stories about poor journalism practices, plagiarism and overactive imaginations. Steven Glass, a young reporter at the New Republic, was revealed to



Steven Brill and his troubled title

have made up wholesale his stories: two columnists departed from the Boston Globe after some of their quotes and characters were questioned; CNN came under heavy fire over its report into Operation Tailwind, a Vietnam-era episode where CNN claimed the US had used nerve gas, and

the Pentagon said it hadn't. Brill tapped into this, laying into all the sacred cows of the American media, from ABC News and Dateline NBC to Time magazine. It didn't make Mr Brill many friends in the mainstream media. "I will predict it's going to be a bumpy ride as journalists... have to get used to the fact that ... in terms of no longer being accountable to the consumers in an organ-

ised way, the jig is up. The

people who are your customers

are our constituency."



Media Magazine

But who, exactly, are those customers? Mr Brill said that the first edition sold out its 250,000 initial run, and a second printing of 75,000. Subsequent sales, however, have not been quite so exciting. "We've had a ton of cancel-

lations from the people on the Right because of the first issue which attacked Kenneth Starr]. "And I promise you that the second issue or the third issue, we'll get a ton of cancellations from people on the left,"

he said to Mother Jones. Last month, the editor-inchief, Michael Kramer, stepped down. "It's an unhappy circumstance," said Mr Brill "It has to do with... an internal per-

sonnel issue."

numbing statistics; and the focus on accuracy can be a little deadening after a while. A lot of media writing is flossy and celebrity-focused: while Brill's Content goes to the other extreme – a bit of fluff might not

There has been other criticism. The media had been "corrupted to its core" by Mr Starr and his investigation, Mr Brill said in the first issue. Well, hadn't Mr Brill himself given \$2,000 (£1,300) to the Clinton election campaign? And if he was so hot on professional standards, why hadn't he recorded the interview with Mr Starr that

formed the basis for his article? It is the magazine's narrow focus, however, that has probably done it most harm. There's more to truth than facts," says Solon Mogozine, an online service that deals with media issues. "By churning out one soporific doorstop after another, it is effectively telling editors that if you follow Dr Brill's Patented System for Quality Journalism, you will

produce a boring magazine." To some extent, Mr Brill is the victim of deflated expectations. The media loves to build up and then knock down. Matt Drudge, the Internet journalist who has also been scathing But, not surprisingly, there about traditional journalism, was widespread speculation had advice for Mr Brill after his that the magazine might be in PR offensive. Feed the hungry for a rethink. A lot of it is mind-machine slowly," he said.

NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18) Director: Paul McGuigan Starring: Stephen McCole, Kevin McKidd. Ewen Bramner

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, The Acid House plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of some of Edinburgh's less salubrious areas and darts with hrio between a range of moods and tones. Story number one, "The Granton Star Cause". is a playful riff on Kafka's Metamorphosis as layabout wastrel Boab (McCole) gets conjured into a fly by the vengeful, boozing God (Maurice Roeves) whom be meets down the pub.

Story two, "A Soft Touch", comes on as a kind of social-realist Special Brew opera, as its affable, emasculated hero (the brilliant Kevin McKidd) finds himself cheated on by his missus and menaced by the tattooed thug who lives upstairs. Story three, "The Acid House", is both the most ambitious and the least coherent, an indiscriminate what-if scenario which has Ewen Bremner's rave kid switching places with a newborn bairn. In it, the revelations of an acidtrip are cross cut to the trauma of hirth, yet a clever conceit stays unfulfilled, buried under a ton of showy hallucinogenics. Overall, though, debut director Paul McGuigan (who trained as a stills photographer) turns The Acid House into a bit of a triumph; adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales and rustling up a film that's less poised and populist than Trainspotting, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. A cracker, all told.

West End: Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Warner Village

SITCOM (18)

Director: François Ozon Starring: Evelyne Dandry, François Marthouret, Marina de Van

Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The debuting French film-maker is

clearly a man of talent, but in Sitcom be lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. This scattergun satire on middle-class mores takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family (mere, pere, fils et fille) - setting a rat loose in the home and interjecting an implicitly queer and subversive vein to the increasingly fraught shenanigans. The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the oext, and arrives beavily touched by the influence of Luis Bunuel and John Waters. Ozon's still, formal framing strikes a nice balance with the craziness contained inside.

West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Virgin Chelsea

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) Director: Jonathan Frakes

Starring: Patrick Stewart A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, Insurrection hits the cinemas stuffed with in the know gags, ribboned and bowed with reliably cheesy art-design and effects work, and wrapped up in rather more cornball romance

than we're used to. The yarn is nominally about Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who has hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. The trouble is that the whole Star Trek phenomenon has become less a story now than a series of self-reflective gestures. Insurrection takes no real risks with the format: it simply navel-gazes for a while, gives floorspace to the regulars and idles its way along to the climactic explosion.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Vîrgin Trocadero

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Truman Show (15)

Peter Weir's ingenious and unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Jim Carrey's Truman Burbank, it is breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

Out of Sight (15) This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from

director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and hoasts in George Clooney and Jeooifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

Antz (PG) Computer-aoimated comedy (right) voiced by a stellar cast and starring Woody Alleo as a worker ant who becomes ao opposent of the colony's totalitarian

regime. Allen's best

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) & Baker Street

The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm

Star Trek: Insurrection 1,20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8,30pm What 6pm, 8,30pm What May Come 6.05pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

Dreams May Come 1.05pm,

(0870-902 0403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffato 66 3.40pm, 8.40pm The Eel 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm,

La Vie Revée des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

CHELSEA CINEMA

3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Enemy of The State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro

5.20pm, spin The Mask of 2010 1.15pm. 4pm The Parent Trap 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.30pm Sitcom 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm What Dreams

(0171-369 1720) & Green Park Dancing at Luginasa 4.15pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) 9 Leicester Square Casablanca 1,45pm, 6,45pm Elizabeth 4pm,

9pm The Mighty 1pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name is Joe 3pm, 9.15pm Sitcom 1.30pm, 3.30pm,

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

EMPIRE LEICESTER SOUARE

GATE NOTTING HILL

3,45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

1pm, 3,30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

Sex/Life in LA 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

(0171-734 1506) ↔ Piccadilly

JCA CINEMA

METRO

5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

May Come 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

CURZON SOHO

ROAD

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY

work io a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy driveo by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

The Dream Life of Angels (18) Erick Zonca's remarkable debut draws its

strength from the contrasting persocalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Murie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntila and His Man Mattl Albery Theatre

A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fahle about a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan

Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre The Charles and Diana Story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Broot (right). Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire

Playhouse, Leeds It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boubil/Schonberg musical. Io Conall Morrisoo's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter magnificent show. To 13 Feb

Angeia Carter Cinderella Lyric, Hammersmith

This feast of inspired seasonal silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice to be found anywhere on a West End stage. To 9 Jun

A Month in the Country Swan Theatre, Stratford

Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgeocy's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon Royal Academy

"Life? Or Theatre?", Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic operetta in three colours. To 10 Jan

Grinling Gibbons Victoria & Albert Museum

Fruit, flowers and foliage - the best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of oature his trademark. To 24 Jan

Chris Ofiii

Whitworth Gallery. Manchester 1 4 1 This 1998 Thrner Prizewinner (right) is an upbear original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating

elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Goya: The Disparates Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery

Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies wheo he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a void world: life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist oether world. To 17 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, above, West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious début stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. A luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Bobe tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he become the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: Odeon Comden Town. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb

and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister. plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother West End: Curzon Mayfair

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of another female figurehead - this time it's Queen Elizabeth I - struggling to gain purchase in a male world. West End: ABC Ponton Street, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine. Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, to probe a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Vir-🦸 gin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops at full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid clattering action set-pieces. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG)

Peter Chelsom's The Mighty treads through familiar coming-of-age country with its tale of two outcast kids (one fat, the other sickly) in a storybook Cincinnati. It's all a bit stolid and a tad predictable, though there's a glimmer of soul showing through. Sharon Stone and The X-Files' Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End. Screen on the Hill, Vergin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing which sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate Performers. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon

Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney re-beating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer as this spry, crosscultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) trying to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Comden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic Dial M for Murder was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this isnot bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katharine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Renoir

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks

honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicalor Dreamcoat, West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. Thrill-an-hour stuff. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hitand-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in the latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamefully funny crimes against humanity. Dumb and Dumber and Kingpin). The film is basically a soft-centred remarkic comedy of the kind which drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. West End: ABC Piccodilly, Odeon Mezzanine

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Along comes Christmas and out comes What Dreams May Come. Robin Williams perfects a loosided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide bride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clopham Picture House, Odeon Comden Town. Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) + Hyde Park Comer/Knightsbridge Elizabeth 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm,

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705-050007) & Camden Town The Add House 11.50am.
2.05pm, 4.20pm, 8.35pm,
8.55pm Enemy of the State
12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm, 8.35pm The Prince of
Enemy 11.65am, 1.55pm, State ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly
Circus Efizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm,
8.10pm The Last Days of Disco
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrets 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm,
8.30pm My Name is Joe 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Egypt 11.45am, 1.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) & Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ODEON KENSINGTON OBEON KENSINGTON
(08705-050007) — High Street
Kensington Babe: Pig in the City
12.10pm Enemy of the State
12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm,
9.20pm The Mask of Zorro
2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out of
Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm The
Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.35pm
The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm,
3pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm Rush Howr
9.50pm 5tar Trek: Insurrection
2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm
What Dreams May Come 1.30pm,
4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm (0870-902 0402) ♦ Leicester Square Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 8.55pm What 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm It's a Wionderful Life 1.05pm, 6.05pm 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEKESTER SQUARE

(0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 4.45pm, 9.45pm Enemy of The State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 7.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, **ODEON MARBLE ARCH** (08705-050007)

Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9.05pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Rush Hour 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 8pm, 8.50pm (0171-638 8891) ◆ Barbican The Mighty 6.15pm, 8.40pm Sitcom 6.15pm, 8.40pm (0171-351 3742) & Sloane Square On Connait ia Chanson 1pm,

ODEON MEZZANINE Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm. 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 8.25pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.65pm, 8.20pm, 8.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.65pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm, 9.20pm,

3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) & Swiss Cottage Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm 8.15pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm Rush Hour 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0171-703 4968) © Elephani & Castle The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Star Treic Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0990-888990) ← Leicester Square Out of Sight 12,10pm, 2,55pm, 5,50pm, 8,35pm The (0171-494 4153) ← Piccadilly Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm 1-Resc Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am. 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) O East Finchley (0171-727 4043) → Notting HIII Gate The Acid House 1.15pm, Elizabeth 6.15pm Left Luggage 1.45pm, 4pm Out of Sight PLAZA

(0870-907 0718) ◆ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Enemy of The (0990-888990) → Piccadilly Circus State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Rush Hour 8.40pm Star Treic Insurrection The Acid House 12,30pm, 3,20pm, 5,10pm, 9pm Babe: Pig in the City 12,45pm, 3,10pm, 5,30pm Rush Hour 1,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm Rush Hour 1,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm Rush Hour 1,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm, 6,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm, 4pm, 6,30pm, 6, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Show 3.35pm, 8.40pm (0171-930 3647) ← Charing Cross

(0171-837 8402) ← Russell Square The Apple (57b) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connalt la Chanson Circus The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm Fire 2pm, 6.30pm 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) 8R/O Brixton (0171-733 2229) 8R/Ø Brixton The Acid House 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Enemy of the State 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm The Mask of Zorro 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm Out of Sight 6.35pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 4.30pm Rush Hour 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 2.20pm

(0171-935 2772) © Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm. 8.20pm Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) ← Angel Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

UCI WRITELEYS (0870-603 4567) Bayswater/Queensway Antz 2.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 3.30pm Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Negotiator phone for details Out of Sight pho details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Star Trek:

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 9.30pm Elizabeth 9pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) & Piccadilly Clrcus The Acid House 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm (+ Short: Jump Boy) The , Mighty 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) € Leicester Square The Acid House 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Blade 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Express: (25th Anniversary 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm.

LONDON LOCALS

ACTON

The Prince of Egypt 10.50am, 1pm, 3,20pm, 5,30pm, 7,40pm, 10pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7,20pm, 9,10pm, 9,50pm Small Soldiers 10,40am Star Trek; Insurrection 11.10am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

(0870-907 0710) & Sloane Square/South Kensington Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.45pm. 6pm, 8.30pm Sittom 2.30pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9,30pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) ◆ Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 6.10pm The Negociator 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Ronin 9pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

Rerelease) 9pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.50pm, 8.30pm Mulan 11.45pm, 1.55pm The Negotiator 11,40am. 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm,

CINEMA

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) + Park Royal Antz .40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig in the Otty 11am, 1.20pm, 3.30pm Blade 9.30pm Enemy of the State 11.30am, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Mulan 12.20pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm

BARNET ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet Babe: Pig in the City 12noon Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm. 3.45pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 1ne Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm Rush Hour 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.30pm, 8.15pm

> BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 5.40pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt

> 1.25pm, 3.40pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.30pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bedeyheath Antz 11.10am, 1.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.20am Babe: Pig in the City 11.20am Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm The Mask of Zorro 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Mighty 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm, 9.55pm The Parent Trap 11am, 1.30pm. 4.10pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection

10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.45am, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 9pm, 9.45pm What Dreams May Come 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, BROMLEY ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Enemy of The State 2.50pm, m. 8.30om The Mask of Zor ro 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12,15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.50pm Rush Hour 6,15pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.55pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) 8R: Catford Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.30pm

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) 8R: Croydon West/East Babe: Pig In the City 2pm The Mighty 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

CROVDON

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) 8R: West Croydon. The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680

8090) 8R: East Croydon Antz 5.10pm, 7.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.50pm Blade 9.40pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm. 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.35am The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3,50pm, 6.50pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 2.35pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Small Soldiers 12noon Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

DAGENHAN WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) & Dagenham Heathway Antz 5.40pm, 7.40pm Babe: Pig In the City 3.30pm Blade 9.40pm Enemy of the State 3.20pm, 3.50pm 6.10pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 3.40pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.40pm. 9.20pm, 10pm Star Trek: insurrection 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm. 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tottenham Hale Antz phone for details Babe: Pig in the phone for details Babe: Pig in the City phone for details Blade phone for details Doli Sajake Rakhna phone for details Enemy of the State phone for details Kuch Kuch Hota Hal phone for details The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Mighty phone for details The Negotiator phone for details The Parent Trapohone for details The Pa phone for details The Player's Club phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour phone for details Saving Private Ryan phone for details Small Soldiers phone for details Star Trek; Insurrection phone for details What Dreams May Come phone for de-

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-CNEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11am, 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Blade 10pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 3.15pm, 9.50pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kudrat ro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mighty 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm Mother 11.05am, 6.05pm Naseeb 2.55pm, 9.45pm out of Sight 6.50pm, 9.35pm The Parent Trap 11am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insur-

11.35am, 6.25pm What Dreams May Come 11.05am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Zakhm 11.25am, 6.20pm **NORTH FINCHLEY** WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 4.10pm, 7pm Babe: Fig in the City 10.50am, 1.20pm Enemy of the State 11.20am, 2.45pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.40am The Negotiator 9.25pm The Parine Negociator 9,25pm ine Par-ent Trap 10.15am, 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 6,30pm The Prince of Egypt 10.20am, 12,50pm, 3.10pm, 5,50pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 11,15am, 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8,30pm Small Soldiers 10.25am Star Tele: Incurrention, 11am

2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm Wajood

3,20pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER WILLAGE (0171-604
3110) & Finchley Road Antz
12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm
Babe: Pig in The City 12.30pm,
2.50pm Enemy of the State
12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm 9.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Mulan
11am The Negotiator 9.50pm Out
of Sight 7.05pm The Parent Trap
1.20pm, 4.10pm The Prince of
Egypt 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 5.10pm,
7.30pm, 10pm Small Soldiers
11.10am Star Trek: Insurrection
11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 7pm, FINCHLEY ROAD 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come

Star Trek: Insurrection 11am, 1,30pm, 4pm 6.40pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 12.45pm,

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

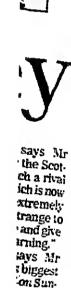
1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) & Belsize Park Enemy of the State 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.25pm, 3,45pm Star Trek: insurrection 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) + Harrow & Wealdstone China Gate
+ 5pm Doll Salake Rakhna 5pm ne 8.45pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 1,30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427

9009) & Harrow on the Hill Antz 5.50pm, 7.50pmk Babe: Pig in the City 1.05pm, 3.30pm Enemy of the State 9.20am, 12.10pm, 12.55pm, 3pm, 3.50pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.25pm The Mask of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.10pm. 6.55pm The Prince of Egypt 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 40pm, 4 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm



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HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705 050007) ↔ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12,10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 5.35pm, 8pm. 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.05pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm out of Sight 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.05pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm Rush Hour 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) @ Gants Hill Babe: Plg in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm. 3pm The Prince of Egypt 1.50pm, 4.10pm Rush Hour 6.20pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1 40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm,

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) → Kilbum Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 8.55pm

KINGSTON UPON THAMES ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
BR: Kingston Babe: Pig in the City
12.15pm Enemy of the State
5.15pm. 8.05pm The Parent Trap 2.25pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm,

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007(+ Highgate Enemy of the State 2.50pm. 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zor-ro 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 12noon Enemy of the State 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm, 11.35pm (Fri) The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Mighty 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2.35pm Rush Hour 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.25pm

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm En-emy of the State 4.55pm. 8pm The Parent Trap 2,20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.55pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY ABC (0870 9020401) + Putney Bridge, BR: Putney, Babe; Pig in the City 1.15pm Enemy Of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, RICHMOND

ODEON (08705 050007) 8R/+ Richmond Enemy of The State 12.10pm. 3pm. 6pm, 9pm Star frek; Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) 8R/O Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Par-Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm En-emy of the State 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12.55pm, 3.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm. 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12noon Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Enemy f the State 12.905pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zor-ro 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Mighty 9pm Mulan 12.30pm out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm 5mall Soldiers 12.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 1.35pm. 4pm, 6.20pm. 8.45pm

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Babe: Pig in The City 1.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm Egypt 1pm. 3.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewoc: Enemy of The State 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm The Mask Of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm. 9pm The Mighty 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 2.30pm, .30pm, 6.30pm Rush Hour 3pm. 6.40pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.30pm, at Dreams May Come 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig In the City 1.45pm The Might 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 3.45pm Star Trek: insurrection 3.50pm 6.15pm, 8.40pm What Dream May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm Blade 8.40pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 2.20pm. 3pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm, 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm Rush Hour 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/+ Stratford East Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Star Trek: insurrection 3,45pm, 6,15pm, 9,10pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI 10990 888990) & Surrey Quays Babe: Pig in the City 3.20pm Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm, 9.45pm The Mask of Zorro 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm Mulan 10.20am The

Out of Sight 8.40cm The Parent Trap 3pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour 7.30pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: insprrection 3.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm. 6,20pm, 9,10pm

UQ 6)0990-888990) BR: 5utton/O Morden Antz phone for details Babe: Pig in the City phone for details Enemy of the State phone for details The Mask of Zorro phone for details Out of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour phone for details Star Trek: Insur-rection phone for details What Dreams May Come phone for de-

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET)0181-888 2519)
© Turnpike Lane. Enemy of the
State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm,

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) + Uxbridge Dr Dolittle 11.40am Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) & Walthamstow Central Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.45pm Star Trek; Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm,

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames En-emy of The State 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.15pm, 6.30pm,

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Mimbledon Antz 11.30am Babe: Pig in the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 3.55pm Rush Hour 8.30pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.35pm WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) & South Woodford Babe; Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 5.30om. 8.10om The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3,10pm Star Trek; insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8,20pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON NFT South Bank 5E1)0171-928 3232) British Broadcasong from 1939-1960: First Tuesday Lecture (NC) 7.30pm High Seria (NC) 9.30pm Gord Who: The Dalek Invasion of Earth (Parts 1-6): Television (NC) 7.30pm High Sterra (NC) 9pm Rio Das Mortes: Fassbinder (NC) 9.10pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2)0171-437 8181) Love is the Devil (18) 1pm Year of the Horse 6.15pm Armageddon (12) 8.45pm

RIO Kingsland High Street £8)0171-254 6677) Lock, Stock & Two 5moking Barrels (18) 2pm Antz (PG) 4.15pm The Spanish Prison-G) 6.15pm The Big Lebowskl (18) 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOSCrisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) The Com-mitments (1S) 6.30pm + Still Crazy 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) If Only (1S) 5pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 9pm

BRIGHTON **DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503)** Henry Fool (18) 1,30pm, 6,30pm My Name is Joe (1S) 4,15pm, 9,15pm

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) On Connait la Chanson (PG) 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Land Girls (12) 8pm,

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)

My Name is Joe (15) 12.30pm, 7.15pm The Eel (18(3pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show (PG) 5.10pm CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-

399666) Pépé le Moko (15) 7.30рт Year of the Horse (15) 8pm

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Kimdum (12(3.30pm The Knowledge of Healing (PG) 6.30pm Sull Crazy (15) 8.45pm

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) La Vie Revée des Anges (18) 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Elizabeth

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

ALDERSHOT

ABC (01252-320355); Bal the City JU): Enemy of the State (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Star Treic insurrection (PG): What Dreams May Come (15) CARDIFF

ABC (0541-555178(; Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In the City)U); Blade (18(; The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15)

CAPITOL ODEON (08705-050007); Babe: Pig in the City JU); Enemy of the State (15); The Mask of Zor-ro (PG); The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15); Star Trek: Insurrection)PG): What Dreams May

ODEON (08705-050007(: Antz (PG); The Mighty (PG); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG)

UCI 12 (0990-888990); Antz)PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Bade Miyan Chote Miyan NC): Blade (18(: Enemy of the State (15); Kuch Kuch Hota Hal (PG): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): The Mask of Zorro)PG); Mulan (U); The Negotiator)15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); The Prince of Egypt)U); Rush Hour (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG(; There's Something About Mary)15): What Dreams May Come (15)

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week running times include intervals. - Seats at all prices) - Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees —)1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4(: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7(: Sat

ALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Pelicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1)0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19,50-£27,50. 130 mins.

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shafter's ac-claimed drama based on the life of Mozart Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

DANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan and her band of dancing chums. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/+ Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 185 mins. DART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship, Wynd-ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867

1111) & Leic Sq. Tue Sat 8,00pm, (4] 3,00pm, (7][1] 5,00pm, £9,50-£27,50, 90 mins. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Layish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy

Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5]]7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins. @ BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama about twins who are separated at birth. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3.00pm, (7) 4.00pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

• BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, NC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) & Char-Ing X/Embankment, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50, 150

■ BUDDY Musical biog-show trac-ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu 8.00pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5.00pm & 8.30pm, mass [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees, 160 mins.

D CAT'S Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems, New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ◆ Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7,45pm.)3))7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£35, 165 O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and

Peter Davison star in this hit Broad-way musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2)0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins. • THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Cri-terion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Tue

5.00pm, £6-225, 120 mins. OR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Camilne Street Wife (0171-416 6022) + Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

• FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) → Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

O FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Penningtoo star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1)0171-369 1734(→ Picc Circ. In tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30.

o GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street, WCZ (0171-494 5080) ⊕ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm.)4)(7(3.00pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

OAN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & 3pm, (7(4pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-494 5085(\(\Theta\) Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, 5at 8.15pm. (4] 2.30pm,)7(5.00pm. £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on the dark side of fairy tales. Dormar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,)4([7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoopard's play about the life of po-et A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal. Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4](7(2.30pm, £10-£32.50,

• JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5070) € Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

· LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diaoa marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-3691731) O Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4((7) 3pm, ends 9 Jan, E7.50-E25.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Eugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins, • MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam, Theatre Royal, Drury

Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden.

Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4)[7(3.00pm, E5.75-£35. 165 mins.

• THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) e Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7(5.00pm, £10-£24.50.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MATTI Sean Foley and Hamish Me-Coll star in a new version of Brecht's comedy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 3pm. ends 9 Jan, £5-£22.50.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Hay-market, SW1)0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-heme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Hol-born/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. (4)[7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE DOLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends

e LYTTELTON: Cleo, Camping, Em-manuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's new play looks at the Carry On ac-tors and recreates Sid James, Ren-neth Williams and Bebs Windson on stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. 120 mins.

COTTESLOE: Haroun And The Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage adaptation of Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel. In rep today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 6 Jan. Olivier & Lyt-telton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. NT2000: £4, concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SEI (0171-452 3000). BR/@ Waterioo.

■ THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama, in rep tonight 7pm

 THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty com-edy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep tonight 7,15pm, ends 28 Jan. Bar-bican Theatre: E5-E26. The Pit: E11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891), BR/O Barbi-

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIL 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladium Argyll 5treet, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Grc. Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4][7] 2,30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins. THE SNOWMAN Award-winning

production of Raymond Briggs' con-temporary classic. Sadier's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £7.50-£32.50. • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musi-

cal. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SWI (0171-416 6070) BR/ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3([7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins, I THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-

linda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) ♦ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7(3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27-50, 140 mlns, THE WEIR Conor McPherson's

drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic 50/Char-ing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4](7) 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins. I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new

production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/fott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] and £15-£25 160 mires 3pm, £15-£35. 160 mins. O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5](7] 3pm. £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK SUsan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-835 2238/cc0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melancholic piece. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Fri & Sat 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£12. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334) ⊕ Leicester Square.

HACKNEY EMPIRE Dick Whittington and His Cat Anita Dobson and Paul Moriarty star. 5-9 Jan. 7.30pm, mats 5-10 Jan, 2.30pm, £5.50-£15.50. Mare 5treet, E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney Cen-

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song at Twilight Noel Coward's dark autobiographical play is directed by Sheridan Morley and stars Corin Redgrave. Vought 8pm, ends 24 Jan. £12-£13. concs £7. Upper Street, NJ (0171-226 1915) & American Autobiographical Property Au N1 (0171-226 1916) ⊕ Angel/High-

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BASINGSTOKE HAYMARKET THEATRE Canterbury Tales Join the Wife of Bath and Chaucer's other characters in Merrie Olde England. Tonight 7.45pm. £10.50-£16.50, concs available. Wote Street (01256-

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eas-tenders stars alongside Only Fools and Horses' John Challis, Tonight 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs available. Sawclose (01225-

BRISTOL NEW VIC STUDIO Freebird Joo Ivay's black comedy about three motorcyle couriers on a dodgy nission to Cornwall From 6 Jan. Mon-Wed 7,30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 2,30pm, ends 30 Jan. £9, concs £6. King Street)0117-987

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

STIFF LITTLE FINGER'S definitive lyrical tales about 1970s Belfast were so evocative that their fans left in droves when they moved from punk politics to pop pastures. They disbanded in the mid-1980s, but in a career path similar to that taken by Madness, their reunion gigs have been more popular than their original outings. And it appears that their sell-outshows are now not just seeing the return of die-hard fans but the appearance of new, younger ones. The Forum, London NW5 (0181-963 0940) 12 Most

Last Call IT SEEMS to many that Alan Davies (right) has much. to be happy about. There's an acclaimed television show and a lucrative line in advertising. Women describe him as attractive, but approachable while men seem to appreciate his disarming easy going character. Fast ticket sales for his stand-up show suggest Davies may survive the over-exposure which has been the downfall of many other stand-up comedians, if only for the fact his show is so good-hearted and appealing that it

The Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton WV1 (01902-552121) 4 Feb



CANTERBURY
MARLOWE THEATRE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Ex-Blue Pe ter presenter Tim Vincent gets les tive. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £8-£15, comes available. The Friars (01227-787787)

almost defies criticism.

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save the World New adven-ture, courtesy of Enid Birton, and set in 1999, 5-8 Jan. 2pm, 5-7 Jan, 10am 8 & 9 Jan, 7pm, £6-£10, concs avail able. Senghenydd Road (01222-

EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick White tington Follow the penniless bero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Tonight 7,30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£15 fam £28. Stocker Road (01392-493493)

HIGH WYCOMBE WYCOMBE SWAN Jack and the Beanstalk Jean Boht, Michael Elphick Peter Duncan and Bonnie Langford star. Torught 7pm, ends 17 Jan. E8.50-E15.50. St Mary's Street (01494-512000)

TOWN HALL Almost Romeo and Juliet Musical panto for edults, 5-9 Jan, 7.45pm. £9. Victoria Street (01494-512000)

SIR JOHN MILLS THEATRE FEITY Cross the Waveney Sixties story of a Lowestoft fishmonger who has dreams of mocking The Beatles out of the charts. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. ends 16 Jan. £7.75-£9.50, concs available. Gatacre Road (01473-211498)

WOLSEY THEATRE A Christmas

Carol The Wolsey Theatre offers Dickens's tale of greed in Victorian London as an alternative to pan-tomime. 5-9 Jan. 7pm. 6, 7, 9 Jan. 2pm. £5-£15, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725) NEWBURY WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard of Oz Follow Derothy down the Yel-low Brick Road. Today 10.30am &

2,30pm, ends 16 Jan, £9,50-£14. concs available. Bagnor (01635-NORTHAMPTON THE DERINGATE Aladdin's Cave of Entertainment Exciting family enter-tainment starring Billy Pearce as Al-

addin and Victor Spinetti as Abanaza 5-7 Jan. 2pm & 7pm. 8 Jan. 4.30pm Guildhalf Road (01504-62481.1) PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation for the dream-

ing spires. Today 2pm & 5 Jan. 5.30pm. ends 17 Jan. £6-£16.50. POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdle Dora Bryan stars as the Slave of the

lyoaks's David McAlister, Toda 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan, E5.90-£11.90, concs available. Kingland Road (01202-685222) THE HEXAGON The Wizard of O

Michaela 5trachan goes over the rainbow 5-7,9 Jan, 2pm, 5-7,9 Jan, 7pm. 8 Jan, 7.30pm, 8 & 10 Jan, 4.15pm. £10.50-£15, concs avail-

THE MILL AT SONNING WORM'S Eye View Comedy about a wartime landlady forced to house airmen and protect her daughter from their at tions. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mat Sa 2.15om, ends 9 Jan. £21.95-£32.95 incl meal. Sonning Eye (0118-969

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Alado Magic carpet ride to Peking and the land of Emperor Foo Wiff Pong. Tonight 7.15pm, ends 16 Jan. E8-£12.50, concs available. Malthouse £12.50, concs available. Lane (01722-320333) STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

SALISBURY

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Winter's Tale Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 4 Mar. E7-E30. Waterside (01789-2552) SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of

sexual desire. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside)01789-WYVERN THEATRE Jack And The Beanstalk Exciting family pantomime with stars from TV's Rain bow and Doctor Who. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £11.50-£12.50

conce available. Theatre Square

TEWKESBURY ROSES THEATRE Cinderella The Roses present their traditional iamily partonime, 5-7 Jan. 1.30pm. 5-9 Jan, 7pm, 9 Jan, 2pm. £7-£10 concs £5-£8. Sun 5treet (01684 295074)

WATFORD PALACE THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Roy Hudd's family pan-to. 5-7 Jan, 2pm & 6.45pm, 8 & 9 Carendon Road (01923-225671) 5pm, ends 10 Jan, free. (01328-

EXHIBITIONS

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE Here to Stay: Arts Council Collection Purchases of The 1990s Contemporary art inspired by domesticity and everyday objects. Mon Sat 9am-5pm. ends 30 Jan. free, Penglais (01970-623232)

BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition. Mon, Jue. Thur-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm. ends 10 Jan, free, Church Street (01273-290900)

ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians A vision of the 19th-century presented by 20th century artists. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-

WATERSHED Wiogwalkers; Rebecca Goddard and Michelle Henning Computer animation, video and sound pieces. Mon-Sun 9am-1pm, ends 4 Jan, Free, Canon's Road (0117-925 3845)

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable, Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three; Whistier, Fantin-Lattour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints examining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street 101223-3329001

CARDIFF BAY ARTS TRUST Josef Koudelka Photographic images in a major exhibition soread across four galieries. Tue-Fri 10am-5pm, ends 16 Jan, free. Bute Street (01222-

BARBICAN ART GALLERY Native Nations: Journeys in American Photography Over 500 works de-picting Native North Americans. Mon, Thur-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 10 Jan. E5. concs E3. Sifk 5treet, EC2 (0171-638 4141) + Barbican.

ICA GALLERY Die Young Stay Pretty Sculpture, collage, paintings and cut outs by 11 young artists. Mon-5un 12noon-7.30pm, ends 10 Jan. £1.50, concs £1, Sat-5un £2.50, concs £1.50. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) + Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Life? or Theatre?: The Work of Charlotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thur, S. & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan. £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50, NU5 £4. child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Surlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000/cc 413 1717(Green Park,

SERPENTINE GALLERY Louise Bourgeois Sculpture and installation by the major French artist. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 10 Jan, free. Kens-ington Gardens. WZ (0171-402 6075(South Kensington/Lan-

TATE GALLERY Turner Prize 1998 Work by Chris Offili, Cathy De Mon-chaux, Tacita Dean and Sam Taylor-Wood. Ends 10 Jan. £1.50. John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibition devoted to the paintings of the 19th-century artist. Ends 17 Jan. E6, concs E4. Art Now 16: Something is Missing Jean-Marc Bustamante In-

ing Jean-Marc Bustamante In-stallatioo exploring citiea io photographs. Ends 31 Ian, free. Turner in the Alps Works oo paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb, free. In Celebration: The Art of The Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubs and Holbern. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb, free. Millbank, SWI (0171-887 8000)

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Aubrey Beardstey The illustrator's life and work explored in 200 draw-ings and prints. Ends 10 Jan. Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving Work by the 17th-century woodcarver. Ends 24 Jan. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun Turgeney's portrait of all-consumin 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. £5, concs £3. disabled/UB40/mems/af-

> ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Parmerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century. English Roots: Eric Cameron Layers of paint surrounding organic objects. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture lioking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, conts £2. Portimeor Beach (01736-

ter 4.30pm free. Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8441) & South

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA SCHOOL HOUSE GALLERY Christmas Exhibition Seasonal show including work by Tessa Newcomb and Sula Rubens, Tue-Sun 11.30am-

CLASSICAL

LONDON **PURCELL ROOM Marais Ensemble** Contemporary works from the young wind quintet. Tonight 6pm, £4.50-£7.50

Catherine Beynon/Daniel Bell/Huw Watkins Modern works for violin, harp and piano. Tonight 7.30pm. £5.50-£9.50. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

OUEEN ELIZABETH HALL Whitehall Choh/Herrick With the London Baroque Soloists in Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Tonight 7.45pm. E6-E15. South Bank Centre. SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/8 Waterloo.

OPERA

LONDON OUEEN'S THEATRE The Pirates of Penzance New D'Oyly Carte Opera production of Gilbert and Sullivan directed by Shart Mannder, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £15.50-£29.50. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 [017:494 5040] Decading

SADLER'S WELLS The Bartered Bride Smetana's classic opera in a new Royal Opera staging directed by Francesca Zambello. Tonight 7pm. £7.50-£60. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000/cc 0171-863

DANCE

CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL Moscow City Ballet: Cinderella The timeless fairy tale with Tchaikovsky's glorious score. Today 2.30pm & 7,30pm, £19.50-£26.50. The Hayes (01222-

LONDON COLISEUM English Na-Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's new staging of favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Tonigh 7.30pm (Ponomarenko/Armand/Mcliroy(. E2.50-(0171-632 8300) + Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

PLACE THEATRE Resolution! Over 100 up and coming choreographers' work in Londoo's important annual platform season. Mon-Sat. 8pm. ends 13 Feb, 8pm. £8, concs £6. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031)

LITERATURE

JOHN HEGLEY Immovative comic poet. Almeida Theatre Almeida Street N1 (0171-359 4404(& Angel. Yonight 7.30pm, £12.50. concs £10. SPRINGBOARD: THE STEAM

INDUSTRY A week of verse play reading from the award winning production company. Finborough

Theatre Finborough Arms, Finborough Road SW10 (0171-373 3842)

⊕ Earl's Court. Tonight 8pm, ends 9 Jan. £5. concs. **COMEDY**

THE COMEDY STORE The Cutting Edge with Steve Gribbin, Paul Thorne, Sean Meo, Martin Coyote, Lee Hurst, plus one other TBC. Tonight 8pm, Oxendon Street SW1 (01426-914433) Piccadilly

Circus, £11, concs £7. HERSTERICS COMEDY CLUB AT HEISTERICS COMMEDT CLUB AT TUT 'N' SHIVE Shelagh Martin, Amanda Balker, Ishla, Joy Twenty, Jo Williama, MC Ali Jay. Tonight 8,45pm, Upper Street, NI (0171-359 7719(& Angel, £4, concs £3.

ROMFORD THE STANDING OVATION COME. DY CLUB AT CITY LIMITS Matthew Hardy, Geoff Boyz, MC Simon Fox. Fonight 9pm, Collier Row Road (01245-381300) £7, mems £6.

CLUBS

SUSST AT THE HONEY CLUB Indie old and new Yonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches LONDON

FEET FIRST AT CAMDEN PALACE Big indie session with live music. Tonight 10pm-2am, Camden High Street. NW1 (0171-387 0428) 6 Camden Town, £5, concs/NUS £3, ORGANIC AT ION Gerry Lyseight (GLR) plays global grooves. Tonight 8pm-12am, Ladbroke Grove, W10

(0181-960 1702) ← Ladbroke Grove. FORGERY AT DOGSTAR Patrick Forge and Richard Welch spin jazzy sounds, including bits of disco, drum mass, Latin and deep house. Tonight 9pm-2.30am, Coldharbour Lane, 5W9 (0171-733 7515) BR/

EVENTS

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AVLESBURY
CHOCOLATE Danger and subversion... An exhibition of contemporary artwork inspired by and made from chocolate, Buckinghamshire Country Museum Church Street (01296-331441) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 31 Jan, £3.50, children (3-6yrs) £2.

ONE HUNDRED YEAR JOURNEY Exhibition documenting the work of Maxine Hall to help children ex-plore their family histories whilst im-proving their visual literacy and IT skills. Derby Museum And Art Gallery The Strand)01332-716

659) Mon 11am-5pm, Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 9 Jan, free. GLOUCESTER MODERN TIN TOYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD Wide se-lection of tin toys from 1960s onwards. Gloucester Folk Museum Westgate Street (01452-526467) 10am-5pm, ends 6 Feb, £2, concs £1, Gloucster residents/child free,

LONDON WINTER WONDERLAND ART CAMP (AGES 4-14); CHILDREN'S EVENT Art activities full of festive inspiration from around the world. The Art Workshop Rosemont Road NW3 (0171-431 5696) & Finchley Road, Mon-Fri, ends 8 Jan, £120 per THE GREAT CHALLENGE 1998 In-

tractional political cartom exhibition, in aid of Ammesty International, Index on Censorship and the Cartoon Art Trust, The Gallery, Ono Tower Wharf ground floor Bargehouse Street SE1 (0171-928 6193) © Waterloo. terioo, Mon-5un 10am-6pm, ends 10 Jan, free)donations welcomed). SHOW BUSINESS EXHIBITION Original designs illustrating theatre, opera, ballet and film. National Theatre: Lyttelton South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo.

ST. ALBANS THE REALLY SENSIBLE SHOW A touring exhibition exploring the five senses. Museum of St Albans Hat field Road (01727-819340) Mon-Sai 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 17

MUSIC.

LEICESTER COOKIE, CAMERON HINES Alternative acoustic pop from the up and coming cult due headliners. The Shed Yeoman Street (0446

2622255) Tonight 9pm, £3-£4.

RAINDOG, WIDE ANGLE.

LEONARD London quartet Leonard plays the My Mouse Baby single which has been spun by Peel and Geldof Barfly at the Falcon Royal College Street NW1 (0171-482 4808) & Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £5. GENO WASHINGTON Soulman of the 1960s immortalised by Dexys Midnight Runners. Jazz Cafe Park-

way NW1 (0171-916 6060) O Camden Town, Tonight 8pm, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ILLEGAL EAGLES Eagles tribute band. Club Riga London Road (01702-348020) Tonight 8.30pm,

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

RENTWOOD

BOBBY WORTH Leading hits the hig 5-0. Hermit Club Shenfield Road (01277-218897) Tonight 8.30pm, SIMON PURCELL, PHIL PESKETT Modern piano trio double bill. 606

5953(O Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm & 12mld-night, £4.95. RAY GELATO GIANTS Las Veg style swing band. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Corner.

Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352

Tonight 9.1Spm & 11.1Spm, £18, £16 adv. CARMEN BRADFORD/TIM GAR-LAND OUARTET Leading jazz vocalist alongside Lammas leader and Street W1 (0171-439 0747) Delcester Square, Tonight 9pm, £15, mems £4)Mon-Thur), £20, mems £8 (Fri-Sat).

BILLY JENKINS' BLUES COLLEC-TIVE Loveable, punky freeform gui-tarist with his maverick take on the blues. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) R: Stoke Newington, Tonight 9.15pm, £7.

RAWTENSTALL GEOFF SIMKINS Alto leads modern jazz quartet. Rhythm Station Sta-tion Court (01706-214039) Tonight

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DAY REVIEW

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Digital Update. 10.10 John Peel 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 -6.30 Scott Mils.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Alex Lester: The Dawn Patrol: news, views and music, plus e review of the morning's papers. Including 6.15 Pause for Thought. 7.30 Sarah Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young: Talking to the people who make the news. Phone the comment line on 0500 288291. Lines open from 11.30am to 1.15pm. 2.00 Ed Stewert. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 Tablets of Stone. 10.00 Susan Jeffreys Says Make It a Double. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Lynn Par-

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12-00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc.

sons. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dútta.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, (R)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras,

4.00 Voices. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Handel's oratorio based on the story of Sueanna and the Elders in the Apocrypha, given in concert during last year's London Handel Festival. Emma Kirkby, soprano (Susanna), James Bowman, countertenor (Joacim), London Handel Choir and Orchestra/Denys Darlow. 10.20 Postscript. Five specially commissioned dramatic monologues that combine fiction and a news story, 2; 'Come the Day', By

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Fraser Harrison. (R) 10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles conaiders Erica Jong's 'What Do Women Want?', her latest pronouncement on the state of remake of Hitchcock's 'Psycho' -

PICK OF THE DAY

THE ABSORBING feature comeback, in the recent US TV dedicated to personal accounts of disability, Ne Triomph, Ne Tragedy (9am R4), returns for e second series, with Peter White going Stateside to meet Christopher Reeve (right). The actor who achieved fame as Superman discusses his feelings about the riding accident that left him paralysed from the neck to its citizens now. down, and his ewe-inspiring

feminism 25 years after her

ot poems, 'Here Nor There'.

12.00 Composer of the Week:

Saint-Saens. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; No Triumph, No

Tragedy. See Pick of the Day.

9.45 Serial: The Vanished World. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS; Nature: Insight.

11.30 The Galton and Simpson

12.00 NÉWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Elemental

3.00 NEWS; Tha Exchange: 0870

6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents.

7.15 Front Row, Francine Stock

with the arts programme, includ-ing the verdict on Gus Van Sant's

1.30 Full Orchestra.

3.30 The Melting Pot.

4.30 Shop Telk.

5.57 Weather.

3.45 This Sceptred Isle.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

4.00 NEWS; A Good Read.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

9.30 Lean Times.

Radio Playhouse.

12.57 Weather.

010 0444.

5.00 PM.

RADIO 4

groundbreaking collection of as-

seys 'Fear of Flying'. Tonight's stu-

dio guest is Bernerd Donoghue, who reeds from his new collection

remake of Rear Window. In True Colours (8pm R4). the BBC's former South Africa correspondent, Allan Little. assesses how successful the country has been in overcoming the legacy of apertheid. Here

homage to a past master, or a

symptom of Hollywoods lack of

7.45 Under One Roof. The last of

three tive-part dramatisations from

the Michele Hanson stories, with

Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa

South Africa Today. 'Cape Town and the Western Cape'. Five

damocratic elections. Allan Little.

multicultural harmony today. See

8.40 In Touch. Peter White with

'No Issue', Tracey Logan asks

news tor visually impaired people.

9.00 NEWS: Case Notes Special

what science can do to help infer-

tile couples and what issues this

9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy.

The first of six programmes in

which disebled achievers in the

United States talk frankly to Peter

White about how disability has at-

fected their lives. 1: Christopher

Reeve. At his home in New York,

life since the riding accident in

10.80 The World Tonight. With

which he broke his neck.

Justin Webb.

the actor talks movingly about his

years after South Africa's first

the BBC's former South Africa

correspondent, investigates

Pick of the Day.

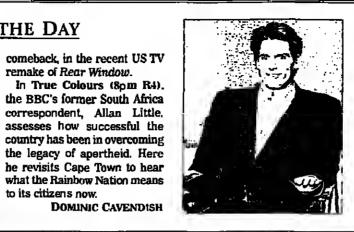
provokes for society.

Bradshaw-White (2/5).

8.00 NEWS; True Colours -

new ideas?

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



Maybe Music Experience. Patrick Barlow and Imelda Staunton team up again, this tima as unhappily married Patrick and Maureen who are meant to be presenting a classica) music show but just cannot stop bickering. With Peter Jones, Stalla Gonet and special guest Jack Davenport. Written by Patrick

Barlow 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) **9.45 - 10.00** Daily Service. **12.00 - 12.04** News Haadlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. 7.30 The Tuesday Match. After Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zo-UEFA's revamp of its European la's colourful novel of the Parisian deml-monde, a powerful evocation club competitions, Russell Fuller of the corrupt world of the Second and his guests discuss tha future French Empire (2/5). 11.00 The Patrick and Maureen ot football in Britein and in Europe. Is this the solution the clubs have been seeking, or does the possibility of a European superleague for the elite still overshadow the domestic game? 9.00 Park Life, Mark O'Donnell discovers how Ron Noades runs Brentford Football Club. (R) 10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 10.30 e full sports roundup. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical dis-CUSSION

1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(100.0~101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly: Including 900 A selection from the Hall of Fame. Plus Henry's High Flyer: a racing tip and Record of the Week. 12-00 Requasts. 2.00 Concerto: C P E Bach: Oboe Concerto in B flat, Wq164. Heinz Holliger, Camerate Bern. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: New York Philharmonic. Suppe: Overture 'Light Cavalry'. Conductor Leonard Bernstein. Brahms: Violin Concerto in D. Conductor Kurt Masur, Anne-Sophie Mutter (vio-lin). Bizet: L'arlesienne Suite No 2. Beethoven: Symphony No 4 in B flat Conductor Legnerd Bernstein 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concarto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott, 7.30 Mark Forrest, 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 Jeremy Clark. WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Discovery. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Live). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 One Planet. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today. TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Daeley, 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale. 1.00-5.00 Creatures of the Night.

It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (1030230). 8.20

The Comedy Alternative: Yes, Minister (3820292), 9.00 Red Dwarf IV (4944037)

9.40 This Life (4917921). 10.35 NYPD Blue (27558292). 11.40 The BIII (140312). 12.10 The BIII (1956167). 12.40 Spender

(7315998), 1.40 Backup (3161885), 2.35 Live at Jongleurs (32605167), 3.00 - 7.00

6.00 Thy and Crew (49987969), 6.20

Philbert the Frog (29863056). 6.30 Johnson and Friends (64661872). 6.45 Tiny

Tales (17095389). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

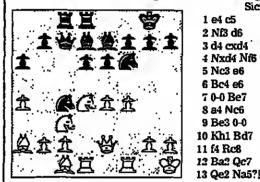
CHESS JON SPEELMAN

THE BOSNIAN Ivan Sokolov propelled himself into the sole lead of the Hastings Premier on Sunday with a victory against the 15-yearold Ukrainian Ruslan Ponomariov With 4/5. Sokolov was half-a-point clear of Matthew Sadier, who beat Mihail Saltaev to go second by himself on 3.5.

Meanwhile the erstwhile leader Sergei Shipov lost first to Ivan Sokolov as White in a fearsomely theoretical Grunfeld Defence, and then this ferocious game, to slip back to 3/5 ahead of the pack of Ponomariov, Emms and myself on 2.5.

In the opening, Black more often plays 7... b5. Instead they reached a fairly normal looking Scheveningen variation with the big difference that the hishop was on a2 rather than e2, say.

Black had a reasonable game and could, for example, exchange 11... Nxd4 12 Qxd4, but weot astray when he manoevred the knight to



few more moves. White: John Emms Black: Sergei Shipov Hastings, 1999 (Round 5)

the apparently active square c4.

should try 15... Qc5. In the diagram,

16 g4! is immensely strong because

Black's pieces are badly placed to re-

17 g5 hxg5 18 fxg5 Nh7 19 Qh5 seems

21 Rd3! Nxd3 22 Rxf7 Nf2+ 23 Kg2

Kxf7 | or 23... Nf8 24 Rxe7) 24

Qxh7+ Kf8 25 Nxe6+ Bxe6 26 Bxe6

Bxg5 27 Qg8+ Ke7 28 Qf7 is mate.

bi Instead 19... Ne5 at coce is more

confusing but 20 Rd3 Nxd3 21 Rxf7

still works since the threats of 22 g6

Shipov had inteoded 18... b5

missing the decisive 19 fxe6 fxe6 20

Qf2!. Instead 18... e5 was hopeless.

At the end White will mate in just a

and 22 Nxe6 are too strong.

to win. If then a) 19... g6 20 Qh4 Ne5

Black could try 16... h6 but after

treat in an orderly fashion.

15... Rfd8? was wrong, instead be

Sicilian Najdorf 14 Rad1 Nc4 15 Bc1 Rfd8?! (see diagram) 16 g4!! Qc5 4 Nxd4 Nf6 17 g5 Ne8 18 f5 e5 19 Nd5 BfB 20 b4 Qe7 21 Bxc4 exd4 22 g6 Kh8 23 gxf7 Nc7 24 Nf4 1-0

CREATIVITY

PUZZLED READERS, woodering was the actress said to the bishop; what the challenge was last week, need to know that the instructions were inadverteotly omitted. Whoops! So you have another week to do it in, and the challeoge is restated below. Only Susan Tomes e-mailed me to ask what was missing, hut oow you all know my address is Loki.Valhalleig bt internet.com, you could do that too!

Another gremlin delayed your New Year Resolutions mail, so instead we seek feedback on suggested challenges. Please feel free to explain wby some kinds of task appeal but others do oot. If music be the food of love, what feeds your Creativity? Share this self-knowledge, and we will play co and give you excess of it. No prizes though, just for casting a vote.

The traditional "think of unusual uses for..." task was popular. with Post Office rubber bands, collapsible umbrellas, earwax, cold compresses, sausage rolls, a wet Wednesday afternoon, yesterday's ldols, General Pinochet, virtual pets, black squares in crosswords, an integrated transport policy and unwanted Christmas presents all having their advocates.

Literary tasks proposed included devising rude nicknames for famous people or irreverent acronyms for organisations: or writing a whole novella in ooe sentence, or more improbable East-Enders storylines, or caustic one-line play reviews; or making up new words with their dictionary definitions, or revealing what it imaginative.

or clumsy instructions for foreign goods in appalling English.

Miscellaneous ideas involved invecting e religion, nominating Seven Wonders of the Modern World, and quotations Oscar Wilde might yet write for the oext editioo of Chambers Dictionary of Quotations.

Scientific topics envisaged were strange invections for Tomorrow's World, redesigning the human body, and what to do when the aliens land in Aylesbury (duck?). And there were imaginative "What If ... ?" scenarios, exploring the consequences if "cannabis were legalised tomorrow", "mooey grew on trees", "lead could be turned into gold" and "immortality proved possible". And it is an "Explore the Consequences" challenge we restate for this week's competition (the first four words got dropped on the cutting-room floor): Imagine the unforeseen consequences of a "leap second" being added at midnight on 31 December. We know the last minute of 1998 was 61 secoods long; that all the major clocks in the world stopped for exactly one second; that time stood still; and there were seven radio pips oot six - but what else happened? or could have happened?

Write to Creativity. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL by 14 January for publication oo 19 January. Three prizes of Chambers Dictionary of Quotations for the most

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER 5KY PREMIER
6.00 Picture Perfect (1995) (82203143).
7.45 Moby Dick (1997) (52258230). 10.15
The Long Walk Home (1990) (947308).
12.15 The Directors (840501). 1.15 Hollywood Buzz (9177389). 1.50 The Frifth Element (1997) (73607389). 3.55. Picture
Perfect (1995) (431872). 5.30 Moby Dick (1997) (434037). 8.00 The Fifth Element (1997). (1997) (25940). 10.00 Never Talk to Strangers (1995) (193292), 11-35 Another 48 Hrs (1990) (243056), 145 Blood and Wine (1997) (465099), **3.00** Carriers (1997) (209524), **4.35** Directors (5976167).

SKY MOVIEMAX 7.00 3 Women (1977) (70037), 9.00 Reckless Nights (1997) (46582), 11.00 For Hope (1997) (39414). 1.00 The Kid (1997) (57698). **3.00** Reckless Nights (1997) (54872). **5.00** 3 Women (1977) (55679), 7.00 The Kid (1997) (61389). 9.00 Rattled (1996) (33869), 11.00 Fast Money (1995) (453211). 12.35 The Fiance (1997) (545902), 2.40 Fandango (1984) (6125308), 3.40 See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1989) (632490). 5.25 - 7.00 For Hope (1997) (90910419).

SKY CINEMA 4.00 3:10 To Yuma (1957) (8265476). 6.00 Buck Privates Come Home (1947) (7663389). **5.00** The Strange Affair of Uncle Harry (1945) (7568834). 10.00 100 Years... 100 Movies (8894389). 10.55 Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry (1974) (75044582). 12.30 The Eighth Day (1995) (3562728). 2.30 The Two-Headed Spy (1953) (9494032). 4.05 Days of Glory (1944) (69820122), 5.30 Close.

FILMFOLD 9.00 Boudu Saved from Drowning (1932) (7548563) 8.00 Brassed Off (1996) (7550308). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 The Crow (1994) (9979921). 12.00 Le Petit Soldat (1960) (5195885). 1.35 Nell (1994) (2226506). 3.30 - 6.00 Blue Sky (1984) (8272273).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1125495), 4.30 Walker's World (1121679), 5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (1668360), 5.30 Jurassica (145259), 6.00 Animal Doctor (1135872). 6.30 Hunters Tooth and Claw (2522582), 7.30 Beyond 2000 (1122308), 8.00 Great Escapes (1697872). See Pick of the Day. 8.30 Quantum: Southern Ocean Survival (1683679). 9.00 Trailblazers (9501650). 10.00 Antarctica (9511037). 1L00 Firepower 2000 (6583673). 12.00 Titanic

PICK OF THE DAY

THE FULL MONTY garnered strong performers Stephen Mark Herman's Brassed Off ends meet. (8pm FilmFour) is the more substantial film. It brings real bite to the issue of what happens to whole communities when their main industry is closed down. The Full Monty men former miners find solece in their brass band. Among many

Discovered (3115525). 1.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (4397544). 1.30-2.00

7.00 Count Duckula (89785). 7.30 The

Ancient Warriors (9882235).

SKY ONE

more column-inches - to say Tompkinson stands out as the oothing of more money at the ex-pltman forced to dress up box office - but in many ways as a clown in an attempt to make "Volcano of Death," this

week's Greet Escapes (8pm Discovery), focuses co the six-man British expeditioo in 1976 to scale Mount Sangay in Ecuador, thought to be the turn to stripping, while the most threatening volcano in the world.

JAMES RAMPTON



Federation Live Wire (4327), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2211), 6.30 Inside Scottish Football (90747), 7.30 Fastrax (9747). 8.00 Greyhound Racing (74230). 10.00

Chris Evans Breakfast Show (62414). 8,30 Hollywood Squares (61230). 9,00 Sally Jessy Raphael (55389). 10,00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (64476). 11.00 Guilty! (77940). 12.00 Jenny Jones (86037). 1.00 Med about You (88056). 1.30 Jeopardy (99501). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (42766). 3.00 Jenny Jones (96835). 4.00 Guiltyl (87292), 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6389), 6.00 Married with Space Wile (536), 8.00 Mariet will Children (392), 6.30 Dream Team (750). 7.00 The Simpsons (7018), 7.30 The Simpsons (3785), 8.00 Rescue Medics (6768), 8.30 Coppers (8501), 9.00 Worlds Wildest Police Videos (18650). 10.00 Greece Uncovered (28037), 11.00 Dream Team (88921), 11.30 Earth: Final Conflict (50056), 12.30 Highlander (18148). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (5262544).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (4449489). 735 V-Max (342124). 7.45 H2O (34495). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (4591360). 8.30 Racing News (30969). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Ing News (20969) 3.00 Aerocks - Oz Style (14921) 9.30 You're on Sky Sports (55143) 10.00 Football League Review (79196) 11.00 Max Power (19940) 12.00 Aerobios - Oz Style (34785) 12.30 V-Max (76259). 100 Football (48768). 2.30 Spanish Footbell (20037), 4.30 World Windsurfing (8018), 5.00 World Wrestling

Sky Sports Centre (577056). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (613259). 10.45 Inside Scottish Football (363037). 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (465940). 12.90 You're on Sky Sports (42419). 12.30 Showjumping (84780). 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (8820457). 2.45 Close. SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (9985650). 7-30 Sky Sports Centre (9489834). 7.45 Rac-ing News (8549940). 8.15 World Windsurfing (8227853). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (9304327). 9.00 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (2714327). 11.00 International Cricket Australia v England (2006292), 11.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (4984853), 4,00 International Cricket Australia v England (2602124). 6.30 Internetional Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (4980105). 8.30 International Cricket Australia v England (7148281). 11.00 Fastrax (2021501). 11.30 International Cricket Australia vs England (3751292). 2.00 Second Innings (2024849). 2.30 - 7.00 Cricket Australia vs England (9250490).

Wire (68344056). **1.00** Fish TV - Tony Oean Outdoors (66514969). **1.30** Fish TV (68324292). 2.00 Dickie Davies's Sporting

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Heroes Gareth Edwards (13125211). 3.00 Totalsport (19865056). 3.30 World Motor-sport (41092495). 6.30 Sports Unlimited (11353834), 7.30 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (42912766). 8.00 Showjumping (40317785). 10.00 Superbouts Arguello v Escalera (40396292). 11.00 Olympic Series Road to Nagano (52452259). 11.30 Closs.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Raily (95360). **8.00** Cross-Country Skiling (95921). **5.00** Alpine Skiling (2035327). **10.15** Cross-Country Skiling (343308). **11.45** Alpine Sking (811582) **12.00** Alpine Sking (40834). **1.00** Ski Jumping (90476), **2.30** Cross-Country Sking (15105), **4.30** Alpine Sking (48308). **6.30** Ski Jumping (22056). **7.00** Boxing (413330). **9.30** Rally (41563). **10.00** Football (41414). 12.00-12.30 Rally (60815). UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (6783871), 7.30 Neighbours (9308230). 7.55 EastEnders (1246389). 8.30 The Bit (8697940). 9.00 The Bill (8688292). 9.30 The House of Eliott (2637495), 10.30 Angels (8684476), 11.00 Dallas (6002211), 11.55 Neighbours (98898259), 12.25 EastEnders (7705563). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (4177124). 2.00 Dates (1217872). 2.55 The Bill (1737389). 3.25 The Bill (6957056), 3.55 EastEnders 6.00 Dynasty (4157360). 7.00 The Com-edy Alternative: May to December (9931582). 7.40 The Comedy Alternative:

(17009582). 7.00 Practical Parenting (5369124), 7.05 Professor Bubble (5343105), 7.30 Calliou (5273698), 7.35 Bug Alert (6313834), 7.55 Practical Parenting (6887650), 8.00 Barney and Friends (2085679). 8.30 Tiny Tales (7503650). **8.35** Tiny and Crew (8954360). **8.50** Practical Parenting 9463650), 9.00 Diet Show (2091230) 9.30 The Roseanne Show (3005018). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (6853563). 10.50 Maury Povich (5500230). 11.40 Brookside (56401672) 12.10 Animal Rescue (74692037). 12.40 Rescue 911 (13710124). 1.10 Special Bables (23078563). 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (79643834), 2.10 LA Law (3699259), 3.10 Jerry Springer (7518940). 4.00 Michael Cole (4112563), 4.50 Rotonda (2300637). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (7846230). 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show (1041259), **7.05** Rescue 911 (4231969), **7.35** Animal Rescue (9614389), **8.00** Murder Call (7655360). 6.00 Film: Choices

LIVING

9.00 36 Hours (1964) (36088834), 11.15 The Asphalt Jungle (1950) (77706940). 1.30 The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968) (67368964), 3.30 The Petrified Forest (1936) (84160693). 5.00 Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (3698). 7.30 Desmond's (7389). 8.00 Roseanne (9018). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (1853). 9.00 Cybil (30306). 9.30 Seinield (54037). 10.00 Frasier (33056). 10.30 Cheers (19476). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (35853). 11-30 The Lar ry Sanders Show (96501). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (33902).

of the Heart (1983) (7665747). 11.00 Sex

Life Down Under (3718360), 12,00 Close.

(3651259). **4.30** Angels (1123037). **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1689853). SKY SPORTS 3 1.00 Taxi (16728). 1.30 The Critic (20419). 2.00 Dr Katz (25525). 2.30 Soap (51772). 3.00 Wings (96964). 3.30

BBC1 N IRELAND As RBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (921). BBC1 SCOTLAND

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 2.55
Dotaman (3822679), 3.10 Dochaidt Mor
(Cakey Doke) (9284360), 6.00 News
(969), 6.30 Reporting Scotland (921),
10.30 The New Year Storms - e 999
Special (856853), 11.10 Crystal Bails
(906582), 11.50 Film: Saduced by Evil 587056). 1.20 BBC News 24 (47222186).

BBC1 WALES As RBC1 London except: 6.30 As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (921), 10.00 Eastern Promise (346766), 10.35 The New Year Storms - a 999 Special (855124), 11.45 Crystal Bails (905853), 11.55 Film: Seduced by Evil (556211), 1.05 Film: Death of a Cheerleader (812983), 2.50 Jons BBC News 24 (48341148).

ANGLIA
As Cariton except: 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (6275211), 1.00 Upshot (24834), 1.30 Home and Away
(66259), 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show
(2106669), 3.20 Anglia News and
Weather (2283853), 5.10 Shortland
Street (6380762), 6.00 Home and Away ANGLIA

(648899). 6.25 Anglia News (953037). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (160698). 11.40 Film: The China Syn-drome (92169327). 2.00 The Haunted Fishtank (18612). 2.30 Highlander (8357525). 3.25 Wish You Were Hera...? (83194380), 3.55 Nationwide Football League Extra (8444612). 4.50 ITV CENTRAL

As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6275211). 1.00 Headiners (24834). 3.20 Central News (2283853). 5.10 Shortland Street 380762), **6.00** Home and Away (648899), 6.25 Central News and Weather (953037), 10-30 Central News and Weather (160698), 4.45 Jobfinder (1077877). 5.20 Asian Eye (4519877). HTY WALES

As Cariton except: 15.25 This Morning (62861259), 12.15 HTV News (9659563), 1.00 Shortland Street (965963), **1,00** Shoreand Street (24834), **1,30** Home and Away (66259), **2,00** The Jerry Springer Show (2106969), **3,20** HTV News (2228853), **5,40** A Country Practice (6380762), **6,00** Home and Away (848899), **6,25** Wales Tonight (953037), **10,30** HTV News (160698), **11,40** Film: The China Syndrome (92169327). 2.00 The Haunt-ed Fishtank (18612). 2.30 Highlander (8357525). 3.25 Wish You Were Here...? (83194380). 3.55 Nationwide Football League Extra (8444612). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (6682631). HTV WEST

As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV West Weather (348105). 8.30 The West Tonight (389). MERIDIAN As Cariton except: 10.25 This

Morning (62861259), 12.15 Meridian News end Weather (9659563), 1.00 Shortland Street (24834), 1.30 Home Shortand Street (24834), 1.30 Home and Away (66259), 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2106969), 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (2283853), 5.30 Home and Away (6380762), 5.37 Three Minutes (725105), 6.00 Meridian Tonigh! (227), 6.30 Grass Roots Special (389), 48.30 Meridian News and Weather 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (160698). 11.40 Film: The China Synfrome (92169327), 2.00 The Haunted Fishtank (18612). 2,30 Highlander (8357525). 3,25 Wish You Were Here...? (83194380). 3.55 Nationwide Football League Extra (8444612). 4.50 ITV Mghtscreen (54758952). 5.00 Free-screen (57544).

WESTCOUNTRY As Cariton except: 10.25 This Morning (62861259). 12.15 Westcountry

Morning (62861259). 12.15 Westcountry News (9659563). 12.27 Illuminations (6283230). 1.00 Emmerdale (24834). 3.20 Westcountry News (2283853). 6.00 Westcountry Live (42679). 10.30 Westcountry News (160698). 11.40 Film: The Chine Syndrome (92169327). 2.00 The Haunted Fishtank (18612). 2.30 Highlander (8357525). 3.25 Wish You Were Hera...? (83194380). 3.55 Na-tionwide Football League Extra (8444612). 4.50 Nightscreen (6682631).

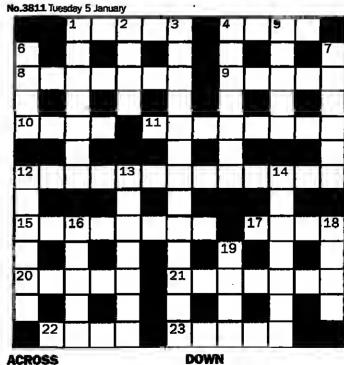
YORKSHIRE YORKSHIRE
As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar
News Headlines (6275211). 1.00 Home
and Away (24834). 2.15 Coronation
Street (522308). 3.20 Calendar News
Headlines (2283853). 6.90 Calendar
(227). 6.30 Toright (389). 10.30 Calendar
News and Weather (160698). 4.45 Jobfinder (5760099). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (827321). 3.20 North East News Headlines (2283853). 5.40 News; Weather (57897). 5.55 North East Weather (745989). 8.00 North East Tonigh! (42679). 10.30 North East News and Weather (160698).

Nightstand (28612). 4.00 Close.

As Channel 4 except: 9.00 The Cosby Show (16850360). 9.30 Film: Helio Dolly (52158766). 12.05 Here's Dne I Made Earlier (36383209). 12.30 Sesame Street (38872698). 1.00 Planed Sesame Street (3007000). 1.30 Film: The Thief of Baghdad (99239679). 4.00 Fifteen to One (56564840). 4.30 Ricki Lake (56560124). 5.00 Planed Plant: Uned 5 187282394), **5.30** Countdown (56551476), **6.00** Newyddion (69430766). 6.10 Henro (95132563). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (75704650). 7.30 Newyddion (56561853). 8.00 Y Sioe Gelf (81882358). 8.30 Pengelli (75704605). 10.00 Brookside: Katle and Rachel contract the Identity of the vince themselves of the Identity of the vince themselves of the Identity of the rapist. Jacqui's day only gets worse as she carries the weight of the world on her shoulders. And Joey appears in court, but will Bernry continue to cause him trouble? (54329766). 10.35 Maydey (36616056). 11.35 The Body Story (69037230). 12.05 The Real Holiday Show (57491051). 12.35 The Mini Job-the Making of the Identity Show (57491051). the Making of the Italian Job (66024506). 1.05 Mini Man (71473273). 2.05 Mini Years (21510235). 2.35 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Gloss (5) Bored reaction (4) Cocktail (7) Social division (5)

10 Labour (4) 11 Oratory (8) 12 Consumer survey, e.g. (13)

15 Worship of false gods (8) 17 Ethnic group (4)

20 Stringed instrument (5) 21 Musical toy (7) 22 Nimble (4) 23 Evade (5)

DOWN Conjecture (7) Long poem, e.g. (4) District (13) Mexican peninsule (7) More sensible (5) Leave out (4)

Save (6) 12 Fruit (6) 13 Insulating device (3-4) 14 Fancy (7) 16 Flower (5) 18 Academic hurdle (4) 19 Character (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Shipping, 5 Dale (Chippendale), 9 Arson, 10 Records, 11 Ready money, 14 Wicket-keepers, 16 Churchgorr, 20 Panacea, 21 Onion, 22 Note, 23 Escapade, DOWN: 1 Sparrows, 2 Instance, 3 Pansy, 4 Norfolk Groads, 6 Acre, 7 East, 8 Scheme, 12 Semolina, 13 Estrange, 15 Ethics, 17 Hoo-ba, 18 Span, 19 Gnat.

UESDAY" EVISION



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW.

could they lialp tt?

Andy McNab's Erravo Two
Zero at least had the excuse
that it was based on true-life
events, though as the story has
become further and further
removed from the octual
events - first by being turned
into a bestselling book, then by
being transposed onto the
small screen - that fact has
started to seam less important.
McNeb has said that he agreed
to let the BBC bave tho film
rights because the corporation
was concerned with being
faithful to his account of an
SAS patrol'e experience of being stuck behind Iraqi lines
during the Gulf War. But drama
is charms, and watching this
expensively made two-parter,
authenticity felt more like e
stylistic choice than anything
to do with representing reality.
The viewer was slowed the
odd swift glimpse of traw flesh
following a firefight with Iraqi
troops, just enough to remind
you, briefly, that war le horrific,
but not enough to horrify you.
Not that I clidn't enjoy Bravo
Two Zero. I had an Action Man
he a boy - three of them, in fact
- and will probably always be n
encker's curne when, as here.

sympothetic Chappel; but really, wo've just Dougles, and it's our need to be titiloted that was being exploited here.

EXITATION NEEDS n rost Exitoitation is an overworked sea du to workers, planps sea du to workers, planps to prostituices, countrice to halians, rich countrice to poor countries, end to poor what orange trees do to subto. So let's go easy on slotnolon for a while. I some inter word deal in the misty staff. But before exploitation eks its bags and licads for sun, we could do with sking use of its scrytees a while, just long enough sort out Bareo Two Zero BCD and The Vice CTV). But it was hard not to notice the imperiol echoes; this was a replay, with mochine guns and rocket launchers, of Zuku, or Buttu Geste, or or McNeb was coptured to the Iraqis

tho feeling that we were being shown lute-Victorion stereotynes got etrongor. The Iraqi officers were heavily moustachied types who respected the professionalism of their prisoners. The secret policemen were callow, giggling sadists – farting dellucrately to discomfort the dignified Englishmen, forcing them to clean latrines with their bare hands while offering barely concessed sexual innuendo. However sincerely McNab's book or Troy Kennedy Martin's screenplay intended to portray the "Iruth", this was drama which exploited xenophobia and a boylish delight in things that go bang. It may have avoided showing to much blood, but it was still not a partry spectacle.

30

The Vice had a different set of delusions: this one was all about complicated mornity, how the police and the people they lock up are two sides of the same coin. At any rate, that seemed to be the message of the title sequence, which had the credits flashed up against a kaleidoscopically ebilting picture of a police station and a brothel, the bleak blue corridors of one morphing seamlessly into the opulent scarlet spaces of the other. It helped that the senior vice squad copper, Pat Chappel, was played by Ken Stott, whose face can't help signalling dogged, stoleal vulnerability. He played the type of policeman – not that there is such e type of who sits on the sofa to comfort working girls wille they talk obout their abortions and then seals the conversation with e gentle kiss on the forchead. Meanwhile, Choppel's brash young assistant, Dougle, could berely hold in tho drool while a beautiful high-class tart told him about keeping hor clients on a fight leash. The viewer was supposed to identify

BBC1

Husinees Breekfest (B3550), **8.45** The 38879), **8.00** Kliroy (\$) (T) (8976369), **9.45** The fenessa Show (\$) (T) (5349259), **10.5** S News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7208653), **11.00** Real Rooms (\$) (726230), **11.25** Cen't Cook, Won't Cook (\$) (T) (726389), **11.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (141785), **12.00** Cell My Bluff (\$) (82178), **12.30** Retfersan Dogs' Home (\$) (T) (32292), **1.00** News; Weether (T) (39769), **1.30** Regional News and Weather (88009369), **1.40** Nalghbours (\$) (T) (65689105), **2.05** Ironside (R) (7972679), **2.65** Going for a Song (\$) (8867634), **3.20** Tha Weather Show (\$) (T) (2298766).

3.25 Children's BBC: Pleydeys (R) (S) (5570114). 3.45 The Encharted Lands – the Adventures of the Wishing Cheir (R) (S) (8374037). 3.55 Hububb (S) (8708016). 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (R) (S) (T) (8534899). 4.35 The Really Wild Show (S) (T) (1824821). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (5761850). 5.10 Sea How They Run (S) (T) (8601105).

8.00 [H][I][H] Weight of the Netion. Dale Winton laurches the BBC's "Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit" campaign. See Health Show of the Day, below (5) (1) (3747).

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8327)

10.40 Crystel Balls. Criti Flys Jones takes a light-haertad look at how people in the past thought we'd ba living now (S) (113650)

11.20 IIIM seduced by Evil (Tony Wharmby 1994 US). Unconvincing and unimaginative thriller about a journalist tormented by a small-time magician. Shame about the not-very-special affects (S) (313308).

12.45 IIII Deeth of a Cheerleeder (Willam A Graham 1994 US). Enjoyable look at the nestier side of US high-school lite (S) (T) (810051).

5.35 Neighbours. Heroid tries to explain the facts of life to Paul (8) (7) (138921).

6,00 News| Weather (T) (969).

10

5.30 Regionel news magszine (T) (921).

7.00 Noliday Down Under. This special edition of the travel show comes from Austrelia, with reports on Sydney, Alice Springs and Taemania's soenic coast (S) (1056).

7.30 EestEnders. Tansions mount in Albert Squere as the Mitchells close ranks (S) (T) (105).

9.30 Paddington Green. More reel-life stories, including that of Claudia Aglus and her father, who cannot saa eye to eye (S) (T) (52056).

10.00 The New Yeer Storms - e 999 Spaciel. Michael Buerk presents enother cobbled-together programme of "drematic" footage of 1996's New Year atorms. Good for schadenfreude, if nothing else (S) (T) (221871).

Joins BBC News 24 (79559696). To 8am.

HEALTH SHOW OF THE DAY

12.30 Working Lunch (30834).

1.00 Children's BBC: Oakla Ooke (R) (S) (73970834), 1.10
The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (2795476), 2.10 World Derts (S) (88302821).

8.30 Rick Stein's Seefood Odyssey. The fish-minded chef visits Naples and Suitolk to seek out the places and flevours which influence his cookery (9) (1) (7853).

9.30 EliOIB3 Greet Railway Journays, len Histop starts the new series in India. See Documentary of the Day, below (5) (838678).

10.20

00 Children's BBC: The Little Poler Bear (R) (S) (3540227). 7.05 Teletubbles (S) (2234124). 7.30 Yogl's Treasura Hunt (R) (S) (2527211). 7.60 Blue Peter (S) (3189476). 8.20 Tez-Mania (9167476). 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (S) (8448256). 8.50 The Little Poler Bear (R) (S) (8435143). 9.00 Oekia Doke (7382414). 9.10 The Phil Silvers Show (R) (6767821). 9.35 The Phil Silvers Show (R) (5152747). 10.00 Teletubbles (S) (80388).

10.30 IIIM Monaleur Verdoux (Charles Cheplin 1947 US). Superb Chaplin dark comedy about an unemployed man who turns to murdering wealthy widows in order to support his wife and young son. Strangely, it was a box-office flop at first (T) (81860).

5.30 Cricket – the Ashes. Highlights of the fourth deys play in the linel test metch (S) (688).

7.30 From the Edge. Megazina progremma mede for and by disabled people (S) (T) (747).

5.00 University Challenga. London's City University take on Ballol College, Oxford, under the feersome eye of Jeremy Paxmen (S) (1) (5018).

9.00 Morecambe and Wise (R) (T) (6959).

Treds Secrats II. insider ups from bet brasders (R) (S) (809766).

10.30 Newsnight. With Kirsty Wark (T) (845747).

11.18 World Darts (S) (844230). **12.00** The Phil Silvers Show (R) (59781). To 1230em.

BBC2

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. The Banks family's old neighbourhood is destroyed in a riot (R) (S) (104698)

5.20 Heertbreak High. More drama from the Sydney etudenta (S) (T) (288819).

7:10 The O Zone, Pop naws with Jeyna Middlemise and Jamie Theakston (S) (042865).

No The Bill. Deakin and Holmes are trying to find a kidnap rensom - a cool £300,000 - that has gone walkabout. But to succeed, they need to set a trap for an old adversary who has just been let out of prison. Will he lead them to the money? (T) (143).

Peek Practice. The tong-running Derbyshire medical drame returne for a 13-part series, with a new face in the ahape of Haydn Gwynne. Andrew, still trying to get over Erica, tekea up raily driving with his friand Ronnia. But you just know something is going to go wrong. Sure anough Andrew is something to go wrong.

News; Weether (T) (26143).

10.30 Landon Tonight. Regional news (T) (180898). O Full Fronte! In Filp Flops. Proving that nuclity lant always sexy, a variety of British naturists expose their lifestyles along with their flesh (S) (T) (953105).

11.40 LITE The Chine Syndrome (Jamse Bridges 1979 US). Gripping tale about an attempted cover-up et a nuclear power plant (T) (80631414).

The Haunted Flahtenk (828634). 2.30 Highlander (R) (6132341). 3.20 Wish You Ware Here...? (S) (T) (82944047). 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extre (683709). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (5760099). 5.30 ITN Morning News (67544). To Barn.

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2273478). 3.38 Rosle and Jim (S) (8706850). 3.80 The Wombles (S) (8366018). 4.00 Cow and Chicken (T) (9881672). 4.25 Mike and Angelo (S) (T) (778432). 4.50 How II (S) (T) (9462124).

5.40 Newat Weether (T) (767940).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the cepital and the South-East (T) (227).

Good Stuff. Rowlend Rivron and Wendy Douglas get the limo from the parage and set out to find the bast of London's art and entertainment scene (S) (369).

Emmerdale. Viv turns to Tarry for support, and Zak is left holding the baby (S) (T) (8124).

O Who Wanta to be e Millioneira? All you have to do is give Chris Terrant 15 correct anewers. Not that anyona managed it in the last series (S) (T) (501).

Bob end Margerst. Animeted paries ebout a merried couple, following on from the Oscer-winning short, "Bob's Birthday" (32655).

11.00 Trial and Error. Miscarrieges of justice (S) (T) (32853).

1.35

1.50 IIIVI Tho Pleasure Seekers (Jean Negulesco 1964 US), Musical comedy (284188).
3.50 IIIVI Whispers. Psychic drama (R) (S) (83854728).
4.15 IIIVI Lady Godiva Rides Agein (Frenk Launder 1951 US). Comedy (649815). To 6.55am.

DO QMTV (8091414). 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (2326940). 10.25 Trish Morning (T) (62845211). 12.20 Your Shout (6275211). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (27380). 1.00 London Today (T) (24834). 1.30 The Jarry Springer Show (S) (T) (8204766). 2.15 Home and Away (S) (T) (522308). 2.45 Dals's Supermerket Sweep (S) (T) (521679). 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2266940). 3.20 London Today (T) (2263653).

10 Home and Away (S) (T) (6360782).

5.00 King of the Nill. Hank's beloved lawn is in danger of being dug up by an erchaeologist (R) (S) (T) (879).

5.30 Rome Improvement. The US Navy-faces its greatest challenge when Tim films en episods of his show on an aircraft carrier. Laugh? Naarly (1) (259).

7.00 Channel 4 News Weether. Including headines et 7.30pm (S) (T) (337960).

7.85 Cuben Faces. Installation artist Luis Gomez (268940).

5.00 Brookeide. Jecqui's life just goes from dire to worse.
It's all too tragic to beer. Someone put Brookle out of its misery, please (S) (T) (3414).

8.30 Classic Aircraft. Chocks eway and anoraks on for a look at the advances made in bombing technology during the Second World War (T) (2821).

9.00 Cutting Edge. Tony Livasey is aditor-in-chief of The Sport, this country's stranguet daily paper — ceiling it a "newspaper" doesn't seam quite accurate, in Liveaey's own words, they are "the kings of behaving badly". Their handling of Vereece's shooting proves the point clearly anough Look, too, for the woman who claims her son has been changed into a fish-finger (F) (S) (9821).

10.00 Father Ted. Another chance to see Father Ted's ohence at TV sterdom being thwarted by Na tellow priests. Unmissable (R) (S) (T) (24785).

12.00 [III] Women and Men: Stories of Seduction (Tony Richardson 1990 US). Threa short films (T) (100583).

Hill Double Entente. Sexy tele (5925457).

Carlton

9.35 IIIM Phone Call from a Stranger (Jean Negulesco 1952 US). A plane-cresh survivor visits the tamilies of three victims who confided in him (T) (44482056).

7.00 The Sig Breekfast (S) (29369), 9.00 The Cosby Show (R) (T) (578227).

Channel 4

1.50 [H:D][H] The Fatten Idol (Cerol Reed 1948 UK).
Superb thriller. See Film of the Day, below (T) (61813921). **11.15 Earthscape** (R) (8791698), **11.30** Hare's One i Made Eerlier (R) (S) (T) (5230), **12.00** Sesame Streat (23056), **12.30** Sewlitched (R) (58230), **1.00** Pet Rescue (R) (S) (T) (22476), **1.30** Roots to Success (38869871).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (495). **4.00** Fifteen to One Highlights (R) (S) (T) (230). **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (1918360). **4.35** Ricki Lake (S) (T) (4036016).

5.30 Pet Rescue. Real-life stories of rescued enimals (S) (T) (766).

6.00 '100 Per Cent. Interminable game show (S) (5413672).

S News, Including First on Five, National and International news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (6563679).

7.30 Champione of the Wild. Dr Joyce Poole has devoted more than hall of her life to studying elephants, earning her the nickname "Marma Elephant" (S) (T) (5400308).

5.00 Sur vivor. More fodder for the rather-thern-than-me brigade. This weak's miracle is the 17-year-old girl who survived in the Amezon – after escaping from a blazin elicraft – thanks to her knowledge of jungle wildlife (R) (S) (T) (5731478).

Two. Pilot episode of a psychological thriler ebout a young professor, played by Michael Eeston. On his first day, he finds his fectures have been changed, supposadly at his request, and his notas have vanished (4524921).

11.45 The Jack Docherty Show (5) (1877143). 12.25 Live and Oangerous (5) (7653051). 1.05 Live and Dangarous (contd) (5) (51941916). 3.46 Asian Football Show (5) (7777457). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3228544). 5.30 100 Per Ceni (R) (5) (8207439). To 6am

TELEVISION GUIDE BY CLAIRE GERVAT

Nimittedly, there can be delays which moke even Virgin seem punctual, but, given the distances involved, that's hardly surprising. To compensate, your fellow travellers talk to you instead of listening to their personal stareos, and the food and tea sellers at each station cure tunger and boredom in one stroke. Here, Ian Hislop (right) samples everything from Calcutta's hellish underground to the luxurious Palace on Wheels in Rainsthan bulks this across the subcontinent.



DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS (930pm BBC2) Where bellor to travel by train than in India, where the vast

weight of the Nation (8pm 6BC), nght) You've made the New Year's resolutions, vowed to work out three times a week and cut down on the chips, and suddenly along comes Oale Whiten to help you. How's that for perfect timing? The BBC's "Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit" campulgn kicks off with this one-off spectat about healthier lifestyles, and it's Dale's job to show that dieting can be really good fun, and that exercise can be really good fun, too. The guinea-pigs include the members of a Bbrahaghum social club who have a taste for beer, and a lifelong dieter. All good, useful stuff at a time

FILM OF THE DAY

THE FALLEN IDOL (150pm C4) It's e strange thing about the novels of Graham Greena (right) that, even if you had to endure them et school, they never quite lose their power; even when translated to the screen. Think of Brighton Rock, The Third Mon and Our Mon in Hovana. Mind you, it helps when the meestro himself wrote the screenplay, as in this outstanding edaptation of the short story, The Basement Room. Ralph Richardson is in masterly form as the butler who is wrongly suspected of murdering his wife. He is admirably supported by Bobby Henrey as tha employer's young son who idolises him and tries to protect him. All in all, a polished piece of cinema.



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THE TUESDAY REVIEW The Independent 5 January 1999

B.00 5 News and Sport (S) (7104959). 7.00 WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (9202872). 7.30 Milkshekel (S) (9207655). 7.35 Wimziek House (R) (9923765). 8.00 Hevakazzo (R) (S) (1363476). 8.30 Dappladown Farm (1362747). 9.00 Weather Front (R) (S) (T) (1386327). 8.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6715921). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2320959). 11.10 Leeze (R) (S) (2200495). 12.00 S News et Noon (S) (T) (1386563). 12.30 Family Attairs (S) (T) (9132292). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (929143). 1.30 Tha Rossanne Show (9131563). 2.00 (S) (4751327).

Story (Bill Corcoren 1996 US). True-life tearjerker about speed akate. Dan Jansen, who promised his dying sister had win an Olympic gold medel. Oddly ehort on quelity eporting momente (S) (T) (9835018).

Sunaet Beech. Cola wants to know the truth from Fran (6384747).

5.30 Family Affeirs. Jamie is shocked to find photos of his sister on e porn websits. Shouldn't have been locking, then (S) (T) (5.404124).